

# the chronicle

## Weighty challenge proves big boost for injured soldiers

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## Teenager Tom charts course to be youngest Boat Master on canal

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## £10m offer for council workers in pay dispute

MORE than 1,000 Dudley council workers have been given new wage offers worth over £10 million in a bid to resolve a long-running pay row.

Dudley Council has already settled with 1,937 people at a cost of £9.4m as part of its move to bring women's wages in line with men's. This week it emerged the authority is waiting to hear from claimants' solicitors about a further 1,301 offers which have now been made.

The cost of new offers to bring the wages into line was originally thought to be another £9.4m, but that has now risen to £10.4m.

If the offers are accepted the council will avoid potentially lengthy and expensive employment tribunals.

Public sector union Unison is monitoring the situation. Branch secretary Steve Beardsmore said: "Union solicitors are issuing advice to people over whether to accept offers on a case by case basis."

Dudley Council cabinet member for personnel, legal and property, Councillor Adrian Turner said: "I believe the offers are fair and I would encourage people to consider them carefully."

## Colourful night for flower club

"THIS colourful world" is the theme for the next meeting of Halesowen Flower Club when Janet James of Solihull is booked as demonstrator.

The club, with a thriving membership of over 100, is due to meet at the Shenstone Theatre in the town's Cornbow Centre on Thursday, February 10, at 7.30pm. The club meets on the second Thursday each month at the venue. Visitors are welcome and the cost is £3.50.

## Workers 'in limbo' after pub closes

ABOUT 25 workers have lost their jobs after a Kingswinford pub mysteriously closed. Workers at the Mount Pleasant said they had been left "in limbo" by the sudden closure.

Marstone Brewery, which operates the pub in Cot Lane, declined to say what had happened to the previous tenant. But bosses said they were looking for a new manager.

## Holocaust memorial

NEARLY 200 people gathered in Dudley to remember those who lost their lives during the Holocaust. Dudley College students organised the event at the Broadway campus last Friday to tie in with national Holocaust Memorial Day, commemorated on January 27 this year.



Volunteer funding co-ordinator Ruth Longville and helper Dave Walker with the new food bank bags

## Food charity seeking support by the bagful

A HALESOWEN charity is appealing for businesses to help them out in a bid to raise much-needed funds.

Black Country Food Bank, based on Little Cornbow, provides emergency supplies for people in crisis through their network of distribution centres across the region.

The cash-strapped charity have recently stocked up on handy shopping bags in the hope of raising extra funds and need a presence in local shops.

Bags are organic, ethically produced and will retail for a minimum £2 donation, which will help the charity to continue its work.

Each one will be sold with a memo to jog shoppers' memories of things they might need while they are out.

The hope is that when people see the types of goods they need they will be inspired to pop an extra item in their shopping trolley to donate to the charity. Ruth Longville, volunteer

fundraising coordinator for Black Country Food Bank, said: "We think that we have got a great product, now we need local businesses to step forward and help us get our bags onto the high street."

"We are also appealing for basic supplies and are on the lookout for new collection points for donated goods."

"We know that there is a lot of good will amongst local businesses and would be interested in speaking to anyone who could help."

### Emergency

In the past 12 months more than 5,000 people have been fed by Black Country Food Bank with free three-day emergency supplies.

The charity is run entirely by volunteers at their eight distribution centres, based in Halesowen, Netherton, Brierley Hill, Stourbridge and Walsall.

For more information email [admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk](mailto:admin@blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk) or call 0121 448 8184.

## Regis owners in talks to salvage service for elderly

# HEARTBREAK AS DAY CARE AXED

By TIM SPIERS

[tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk](mailto:tim.spiers@expressandstar.co.uk)

DISCUSSIONS are under way as to whether a Black Country day care service for pensioners can be salvaged after the existing council-funded service was scrapped.

The Regis, on Reddal Hill Road, Old Hill, catered for 30 elderly people every day, offering them a variety of activities, as well as hot drinks, meals and a chance to socialise.

Pensioners who use the service, most of them from Old Hill and Cradley Heath, will now be ferried five miles away to West Bromwich-based Manifoldia Grange.

Regis owners Tony Billingham and Carole Jenkins say the move was a cost-cutting measure and that Manifoldia Grange would offer people fewer activities, a claim Sandwell Council disputed.

Mr Billingham, who co-owns Halesowen-based care homes business Carlton Care Group with Mrs Jenkins, said he hopes to continue the service as a private venture with his business partner.

He said the decision to close the current social services-led service at a week's notice came as a shock, as although the existing contract had expired they believed it would still run until March.

It left some people at the Regis in tears at the thought of having to travel to West Bromwich instead of staying in Old Hill.

"I was there the other day when

social services explained to the elderly people they would not be coming to The Regis any more and many of them were in tears," said Mr Billingham. "One gentleman in his 90s thought I was someone from the council and said he did not know whether to shake my hand or wring my neck. This really took us by surprise."

### Package

"A week's notice hasn't given us time to catch our breath; we knew the contract had expired but we didn't know for sure when it would close," he added.

Day care users at the Regis were picked up from their own homes and would spend around six hours chatting and taking part in activities such as

quizzes and sing-alongs. Mr Billingham said the service made a big difference to peoples' everyday lives and he would look into continuing it, although The Regis couldn't afford to run it voluntarily.

"It's at the stage of deciding whether it'll be just for elderly people, or for people suffering with dementia as well," he said.

"It's a big problem because it's difficult to combine the two and we'd need a lot more staff."

"We're taking advice and we'll make a decision soon."

He added that users would have to pay for the service themselves, although they may be able to receive direct payment from the council if an assessment proved they needed day care as part of an agreed social care package.

Sandwell Council had initially said

they wouldn't be continuing their partnership with the Regis on January 17.

Council cabinet member for adult social care, Councillor Linda Horton, said she believed Manifoldia Grange would be able to offer a wide range of personalised activities to the pensioners.

"Some efficiencies will be achieved through loss of rental payments and staffing rationalisation by locating the day service within an existing service provision," Councillor Horton added.

"All day service users will be collected and transported to the new venue at no additional cost."

"There has been extensive consultation over several months with users of the day service."

"A letter to each individual day service user was sent out last week to formally confirm the service is transferring to Manifoldia Grange."

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## Sir revels in role as Ugly Sister at school



Glebefields Primary School pupils in Cinderella Rockerfella with Year 4 class teacher, Jake Bishop, as one of the Ugly Sisters

PUPILS at a Black Country primary school have been bringing a classic fairytale to life with a modern look at the school pantomime.

Youngsters at Glebefields Primary School in Tipton have been performing Cinderella Rockerfella and Jake Bishop, a Year 4 teacher, took the role of an Ugly Sister. Kate Charles, deputy headteacher of the school in Sandgate Road, said it was the classic story with a modern twist. The prince is a rock star and Cinderella goes to the ball in a pink Cadillac rather than a carriage.

### Motivation

New headteacher Penny Thompson played the Fairy Godmother who grants Cinderella's wish.

"We do a pantomime every year. In previous years we have done them before Christmas, but this last two years we have done it after Christmas and it works really well to give the children extra motivation," Mrs Charles said.

All the junior children – about 200 – all had a part, either singing or acting.

# Lollicams help reduce speeding near schools

LOLLICAMS used by crossing wardens to film bad driving have helped to halve reports of speeding near schools in Dudley, council chiefs claim. Dudley Council was the first in the West Midlands to fit lollipop signs with hidden cameras so drivers who put crossing wardens, schoolchildren and parents in danger could be punished.

Two signs have been in use at unnamed sites since the start of the school year in September 2008. Council chiefs say the number of reported incidents in the 12 months prior to the introduction of the cameras was 14.

These have since reduced to eight and nine reports respectively over the two years. The authority is yet to bring in any prosecutions of drivers, but officials say the scheme is aimed mainly as a deterrent. Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "We are pleased to report that since the introduction of the cameras we are beginning to see a drop in the number of incidents involving crossing patrols near our schools in the borough."

"Anecdotally, individual patrols have commented on an improvement in driver behaviour since the introduction of the cameras."

"They were introduced as a deterrent and have helped raise awareness of the highway rules to ensure the safety of all pedestrians, including school children."

"Primarily, the aim of the campaign is to make the highways safer for children to encourage more to walk to school safely."

### Vertical

The cameras, which cost £1,000, are rotated on a regular basis to areas where there have been difficulties with drivers failing to obey highway laws.

The tiny cameras point in two directions and can capture car details. Footage is viewed only if an incident is reported.

The cameras record if the signs are vertical for 19 seconds, the time allowed for children to cross.

The cameras have also been used in Wyre Forest district and were trialled at Stourport High School.

## Fresh deal for saxman Julian

A BRITAIN'S Got Talent runner-up is heading to Lichfield as part of a nationwide tour in March. Halesowen's smooth saxophone star Julian Smith, runner-up to Susan Boyle in 2009 final, will play the Lichfield Garrick on Saturday, March 5. The music teacher has now signed to Birmingham-based company Big Bear Music.

## Disruption alert over gas mains

RESIDENTS near a busy Stourbridge road are bracing themselves for traffic disruption when it is made one way for almost three weeks to allow gas mains replacement work to be carried out.

Drivers will only be able to access Worcester Street off the town centre's ring road between February 21 and March 11.

National Grid spokeswoman Jane Taylor said: "We are replacing gas mains that runs the whole length of the road. The old metal mains are being replaced with a new plastic pipe and

because of the position of the pipe in the road we can't keep two lanes open."

The diversion route for northbound traffic is Heath Lane, Hagley Road, and Stourbridge ring road.

Residents in Heath Street fear many motorists will try to dodge the Heath Lane diversion by travelling along their narrow road to reach the town centre.

But Matt Ralph, licensee of the Shrubbery Cottage pub, in Heath Lane, said: "From my point of view it will bring more traffic past my pub and, hopefully more custom."

## Staff run like wind to aid birds



Trainee bird keeper Sam Grove keeps an eye the flamingos

FLAMINGOS at Dudley Zoo were nearly blown away as high winds buffeted the Black Country.

Zoo keepers were forced to herd the seven colourful birds inside to keep them from being swept away by the recent high winds which reached speeds of up to 25mph.

The zoo's head curator and "bird man" Matt Lewis, who lives on-site, said: "Although the flamingos wings have been clipped so they cannot fly, they can still glide, so we made the decision to put them in the internal enclosure until the winds had died down."

He said staff had been questioned by disappointed visitors to the attraction in Castle Hill, Dudley, who had hoped to see the flamingos outside.

"We did have some visitors ask why they were not on display, but when we explained the situation everyone was fine," he added.

The birds have now returned to their outdoor enclosure.

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## Threat to vital help on debt problem

A THOUSAND residents in Sandwell will miss out on vital debt counselling if government funding is cut and jobs are lost, the boss of the borough's Citizens Advice Bureau has warned.

Counsellors are dealing with £40 million of debt in the borough every year.

However, a third of workers at the Citizens Advice Bureau have now been issued with letters informing them they are at risk of redundancy.

John Davies, chief executive officer of the Sandwell bureau, has warned that hundreds of residents could sink into further debt if the posts are removed and they do not have access to specialist debt workers.

### Redundancy

A total of five full-time workers, as well as two full-time and one part-time administration staff are expected to go in Sandwell if the government-funded Financial Inclusion Fund which pays for the posts is cut in March.

Out of 60 staff, 23 people have been sent letters asking them to consider redundancy.

Mr Davies said: "The Financial Inclusion Fund pay for a team of specialist debt workers who between them see 1,000 new people a year. Dealing with debt has been problematic for a good few years, but over the last two to three years they have dealt with on average around £40m a year."

# Weighty challenge boost for injured soldiers' fund

A FORMER Royal Marine is celebrating shedding the pounds after a diet driven by his desire to raise money for injured soldiers. Ex-commando Marty Phillips now enjoys nothing more than a good salad after putting a stop to fast food meals and up to six cans of lager a night.

The 54-year-old, of Colman Hill Avenue, Halesowen, began piling on the pounds after a knee injury ended his military career in 1975. Around 13 operations to his knees over the years left him struggling to do much exercise.

But after reaching 20st 12lb last September, Marty used the troops as his inspiration for starting a sponsored fitness kick.

He has lost 39lb – almost 3st – in five months through dieting and cutting the booze and is on the way to meeting his target loss of 6st by September. Family and friends from his Cradley Heath weight loss group sponsored him in his mission and he has raised £1,018 in total for the Help Our Wounded charity, which helps wounded marines.

### U-turn over closure of homes

RESIDENTS and staff at three Sandwell care homes set to be closed down have been told they will remain open for at least a year. Sandwell Council is searching for a private operator to take on Grafton Lodge in Oldbury, Greenhaven Resource Centre in West Bromwich and Glebefields Resource Centre in Tipton, after plans to axe them were suspended.

## Business fund now abolished

A FUND which has injected tens of millions of pounds into businesses throughout the West Midlands, safeguarding or creating thousands of jobs, over the years has been axed.

Doomed regional development agency Advantage West Midlands is no longer accepting applications for cash under the abolished Grant for Business Investment scheme.

Grants of between £10,000 and £2million were available to firms, predominantly in the manufactur-

ing sector, looking to "create new jobs or safeguard existing ones which would otherwise be put at risk". They were given to support expansion and investment.

The scheme is being scrapped alongside the move to axe regional development agencies, giving out cash. The Government claims "exceptional cases" will still be considered.

A white paper announcing the decision states: "Grant for Business Investment will cease with the closure of the agencies."

### Quit

Marty joined up just after his 16th birthday in his native Liverpool but was discharged three years later when he was injured while on exercise.

The father-of-one did a variety of jobs before moving to the Black Country with his wife of 36 years, Cathy, and starting work as a flooring contractor.

"I never ate particularly healthily, I'd always be snacking and having a take-away," he said. "Plus I'd always have a few cans most nights."

"I also quit smoking four years ago and the combination of things just meant the weight piled on."



Marty in an XXXL T-shirt that used to fit him before he lost weight



Marty, aged 54, celebrates with salad after raising more than £1,000 during a sponsored slim

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## thechronicle

### Limbering up for the festive flab fitness campaign

ANYONE who over-indulged in mince pies and turkey over the festive season is urged to sign up for a beginner's exercise programme at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge.

Rangers there have designed a weekly itinerary consisting of a variety of gentle exercises, such as stretching and walking.

The free scheme is part of Dudley Council's Healthy Towns initiative and classes will also be held at parks in Halesowen and Dudley.

Mary Stevens Park hosted its first session last Thursday.

Councillor David Stanley, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "Our hub-based activities are one of many ways in which residents can get involved with the healthy towns campaign."

"Mary Stevens Park is a beautiful place to take in fresh air and exercise and as it doesn't cost a penny to participate, I'm sure lots of people will join in with the fun."

There is no need to pre-book and participants are asked to meet at the hub building, off the park's Stanley Road entrance.

#### Nordic

Other regular classes running at Mary Stevens Park include health walks, abs and arms, green fit, beginners running, running club, family netball, gym circuits, after school club and Nordic walking.

For more information on what's available, call park rangers Mary Spiers on 07584 581283 and Nicola Cranshaw on 07584 4581289.

Details of other sessions are available at the [www.dudley.gov.uk/healthytowns](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/healthytowns) website.



Park rangers Nicola Cranshaw, front, and Mary Spiers prepare for the new classes at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge

## Countdown to opening at new super campus

THE first pupils will move into a new £30 million Black Country super school on February 28, it has been announced.

The creation of the Rowley Learning Campus, which will see two schools and a pupil referral unit move on to a site in Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis, is almost complete.

And the first 200 of the 1,650 students and staff will move in at the end of February once the site is handed over to the

council on February 25. The remaining

pupils will move into the school on June 6. Youngsters from Westminster School, currently in Westminster Road, West Bromwich, and the Whiteheath Pupil Referral Unit in Throne Road, Rowley Regis will be the first at the site.

#### Science

They will be followed in the summer by students and staff from St Michael's Business Enterprise College also in Throne Road. Project manager Steve Bull, of

Sandwell Futures, said: "Part of it is due to be completed on February 25 and the school will take occupation from the Monday."

The £23 million revamp of Alexandra High School in Tipton is going ahead despite the coalition cuts.

The first phase of works will include building a new three-storey science facility on the site of an existing car park.

A new reception area and business centre will greet visitors on completion, which is due by January next year.

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## Search for ghostly goings-on

AGHOST club, which has investigated reports of paranormal activity across the West Midlands for more than two decades, wants to hear about haunting experiences.

The West Midlands Ghost Club, which has been running since 1989, is on the lookout for sites of interest for future investigations.

Group member John Conway said: "The West Midlands Ghost Club would like to hear from people who believe that they have had a paranor-

mal experience in the West Midlands, South Staffordshire, Shropshire, or immediate surrounding areas. We are currently looking for sites of interest for future investigations. All information received will be treated with utmost discretion if required."

Since it was founded 21 years ago the club has investigated alleged ghostly goings-on throughout the region. For more information email [wmgghostclub@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wmgghostclub@yahoo.co.uk) or call 07944 478708.

# Tom charting a career as the youngest Boat Master

ABOAT-LOVING teenager from Netherton has spoken about his golden opportunity to make a career from his life-long passion.

Tom Downing, aged 18, of Swan Street, could become one of the country's youngest Boat Masters after taking over the helm of The Blackcountryman narrow boat, which hosts pleasure cruises, comedy nights and historical tours of Stourbridge's glass industry.

The boat, which is usually moored at The Bonded Warehouse, off Canal Street, Stourbridge, lost its long-serving captain and trip operator, Mick Bourne, when he retired last year.



Retiring trip organiser Mick Bourne



Tom at the age of 10 with brother Ben, five, parents Andy and Deb and grandparents John and Mary. Andy made the boat Henry Cleaver II from a steel shell

Tom said: "For this chance to come along now is perfect. It's a golden opportunity and I can't wait to make the most of it."

His father is a marine engineer and Tom followed him around the dry dock in Stourbridge from an early age. His father also helped transform and update the boat ready for the new season.

Tom said: "Seeing my dad's work passed his passion for boats on to me. It made me want to do a similar thing myself."

## Experience

"We've worked together on the boat which has been good, and he has the experience of working in the dry dock."

Tom has already worked as a mechanic after doing a training course when leaving school, but the job didn't quite work out.

He will take a test in March to gain a Boat Masters licence, and then be able to take charge of the boat for the new season of trips which starts on April 9.

"To think about my first season is nerve-wracking, but I'm excited about it too," he added.

Tom worked as an assistant to Mr Bourne during last year's season, so has dealt with customers, as well as handling the boat.

Colin Clements, manager and director of boat owner Stourbridge Navigation Trust,



Tom Downing, who hopes to get his Boat Master's licence

said: "Last year will have been an eye opener for Tom."

"He is a young entrepreneur and will be a breath of fresh air to the canals."

Graham Fisher MBE, former chairman of Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal Society, said: "I've known Tom for a long time and he's an enthusiastic lad."

"He's got plenty of support and I'm sure I'm not alone in wishing him the best of luck."

# Heathens search for new season sponsor

## Phone mast appeal cut off

RESIDENTS in Stourbridge are celebrating after defeating plans for a phone mast following a year-long fight.

Government planning chiefs have rejected the proposals for Wollaston saying the 49ft structure would be a blot on the landscape.

Nearly 600 people protested and campaign leaders said they were "delighted" with the decision. They had raised fears over the size of the mast and potential health risks.

An appeal was submitted by telecommunications giant O2 but has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

The plan for a mast on a traffic island between Kingsway and Kent Road would have been "completely out of scale with the surrounding area", the inspector said.

Residents said they were pleased to have won after other campaigns against phone masts failed, including one in Hagley Road, Pedmore, Stourbridge.



Celebrating success are, from left, resident Tracey Baynam and daughter Kelly, with other campaigners Nikki Hadlington and Michelle Everall, front

SPONSORS are needed to help boost the coffers of a Black Country speedway team.

Dudley Heathens are appealing to businesses and individuals to work alongside their existing sponsors for the forthcoming season.

The National League speedway club, born from the ashes of the old Cradley Heathens, have an opportunity on their 2011 racejacket for a name or logo.

Club bosses are keen to build on the successes after they finished joint top of the league in their first season since they were reformed.

Heathens' chairman Nigel Pearson said: "This is a golden opportunity for a business or individual to put their name on the famous club colours."

## Transport

"It's something which, in comparison to other sports, doesn't cost much and the return in terms of exposure is superb. We are happy to talk to anybody interested."

Heathens will be staging their home meetings at Wolverhampton's Monmore Green Stadium in this coming campaign as they continue their bid to relocate to the Dudley or Cradley area.

Heathens rider Tom Perry, aged 17, who won the Rider of the Year award last year is also on the lookout for someone to supply him with a van to transport his bike to meetings.

The club is available on 07717 242957 or email: [info@dudley speedway.co.uk](mailto:info@dudley speedway.co.uk)

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## Cricket books to aid new students

A COLLECTION of cricket books, manuals and history guides, which belonged to a former Dudley headteacher have been donated by his family to help educate future generations.

John Read, who died in 1996, was head of Jessons CE Primary, in School Street, for more than 20 years, having devoted his working life to education.

An avid cricket fan, the headmaster collected a number of books on the sport during his life, including Wisden reference guides and books about Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

### Excellent

Now his family have decided to give the collection to the University of Worcester in his memory.

Nephew Clive Read said: "His love of learning and of making a difference was matched by his love of sport, especially cricket, and his lifelong following of Worcestershire CCC."

Colleagues could rely on my uncle if they ever wanted to know the close-of-play scores and scorecard at New Road."

The University of Worcester is establishing an international cricket degree.

Mick Donovan, head of the university's institute of sport and exercise science, said: "To be able to offer the students the opportunity to utilise the excellent collection of texts that have been so kindly donated gives the course an even bigger boost."

# Heart girl's parents so grateful to school staff

A 12-YEAR-OLD girl has had a heart transplant after staff saved her life when she collapsed at her school in Halesowen.

The parents of Jasmine Page, from Halesowen, today praised a senior teacher, secretary and other administration staff at Windsor High School, who used first aid training to massage her heart and keep her alive until an ambulance arrived.

Her father Andy Page, aged 45, an IT manager, said: "What the school staff did in those four minutes saved her life."



Transplant op - Jasmine Page

Jasmine is now the first youngster to receive a heart transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital. Medics decided it was safer to carry the transplant out in Birmingham, rather than at London's Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Jasmine, who was diagnosed with a complex heart condition at the age of three, was being given her daily medication by a teacher when she collapsed. He laid her on the floor, while a secretary rushed over to start heart massage with other members of her team.

Jasmine was taken by ambulance to Russells Hall Hospital, Dudley, and then to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Jasmine, niece of television presenter Alison Hammond, went straight to the top of the transplant list because of her heart failure.

### Surprised

Jasmine's mother, Sandra, aged 44, said: "She now has two birthdays and a new lease of life."

The family were hoping that the youngster would wake up within a couple of days of her operation after being sedated.

Mr Page said: "When she comes round and we tell her she's in Birmingham Children's Hospital, she's had a heart transplant, she's going to be surprised and elated."

Keith Sorrell, Jasmine's headteacher, said: "I am extremely proud of the response of my staff to this emergency."

## School question time for Tory



Stourbridge MP Margot James and head boy Simon Phipps, aged 15, at Pedmore Technology College in Stourbridge where pupils got to quiz her

TEENAGERS were given the chance to quiz Stourbridge MP Margot James on issues ranging from NHS reforms to the Iraq War.

Year 11 citizenship students at Pedmore Technology College invited the Tory MP to listen to their presentations for a class project.

The pupils have been arguing the pros and cons on changing the voting age from 18 to 16.

Ms James said: "I really enjoyed the visit to Pedmore Technology College and discussing the lowering of the voting age to 16. "I found their arguments very persuasive and I felt I could understand both sides of the argument."

The students had been collecting names for a petition as part of the project which the MP who was first elected last May, took away with her.

## Invite to future foster parents

PEOPLE who are interested in fostering a child were offered the chance to find out more at an informal information evening in Sandwell this week.

The Sandwell Fostering Team works with 140 families looking after borough children and 50 more families are needed to come forward and foster.

On Thursday, February 3, people were invited to find out about fostering and becoming a carer by talking to members of the team. The drop-in session was being held between 5.30pm and 7.30pm at Crystal House, Crystal Drive, Sandwell Business Park, Smethwick.

### Possible

Fostering service manager Rachel Gillott said: "Anyone can apply to become a foster carer as long as they have a spare bedroom and can offer children a safe and caring home."

"What is important is that people have the qualities and skills needed to look after children in care."

Sandwell's cabinet member for children and young people Councillor Bob Badham said: "Foster carers play a vital role in giving children in care the best possible start in life."

"We are always on the look out for new foster carers and urge people to come forward and find out more."

## Facebook friends flourish

SANDWELL Council has attracted more than 500 friends on internet site Facebook in two months.

Since launching in the final week of November last year, [www.facebook.com/sandwellsandwells](http://www.facebook.com/sandwellsandwells) has gained 509 members.

Council leader Councillor Darren Cooper said: "The Facebook page has proved

really popular and to gain more than 500 fans in two months is great. It's a great, free way for the council to keep in touch with residents."

"Not only do we use it to tell people about events, news and council services, it also gives residents a chance to ask questions and raise issues with the

council," Councillor Cooper added.

Residents can "like" the Facebook page to receive updates from the authority automatically. And people can also follow updates via the council's Twitter account, [www.twitter.com/sandwellsandwells](http://www.twitter.com/sandwellsandwells), which has more than 1,650 followers.

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A photograph of three students and a male teacher. The students, two girls and one boy, are smiling and holding various prizes including a pink box, a blue calculator, a silver trophy, and a large certificate. The teacher, wearing glasses and a light blue shirt, is also smiling and holding a small trophy. The certificate in the foreground reads 'Daily Maths Competition 2010 Winner' and mentions 'Victoria School'.

care, the youth offending team, as well as primary and secondary school consultants.

The region could face fines running into thousands of pounds if its hospitals fail to prevent patients staying in mixed sex wards. From April, the Government will begin fining NHS trusts who fail to provide same-sex accommodation.

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# Tax bills mounting in battle to halt mosque

## Leisure centre is top knee joint

A CUSTOMER at Haden Hill Leisure Centre says regular exercise is helping her prepare for surgery.

Marion Jones said: "I have been a Gold member for a few weeks now and I always look forward to my visits to the gym, and especially the Thursday morning Aquafit session.

"I will be having knee replacement surgery in 2012, so I decided to get fit and slim. Reducing my calorie intake and exercise are getting me towards my goal.

### Recovery

"I have my own business, which can be extremely stressful, but I know that Natalie the instructor's Aquafit session will be heaps of fun and hard work.

"No matter how wet and windy the weather is, I never miss a session and I recommend her session to anyone.

"I really enjoy using the gym as the advice I was given is really helping me to build up my leg muscles in preparation for my surgery and the weight loss will ensure a good recovery."

Further details are available on the [www.slt-leisure.co.uk](http://www.slt-leisure.co.uk) website. Haden Hill Leisure Centre is a Sandwell Leisure Trust facility in Barrs Road, Cradley Heath.



Marion Jones at Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Cradley Heath

THE legal battle to halt plans for a new mosque in Dudley has already cost taxpayers more than £58,000, new figures reveal.

Meanwhile Muslim leaders have announced they will be scaling down their proposals for the building in Hall Street, near the town centre.

The bill for legal fees between February 2007 and December 2010 includes a battle at the High Court in July 2009.

At that hearing, Dudley Council bosses unsuccessfully appealed against a decision by the Planning Inspectorate to grant the mosque project outline planning permission.

Councillor Les Jones said the bill of £58,378.50 was one the council "could do without", but the legal action had been necessary.

"We obviously don't want to spend any more money than we have to and we are trying to minimise costs," he said.

"But when you take legal action, there will be a cost and unfortunately it is money that has no return."

### Overtaken

Outline plans for the new mosque and community training and enterprise centre were rejected by Dudley Council but overturned by the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol. A High Court judge overturned an appeal against the decision by Dudley Council but ruled the Dudley Muslim Association must submit a full planning application by July 2011.

The council is now preparing a High Court case in a bid to buy back the land earmarked for the mosque, citing a clause in the land contract which meant the building had to be substantially completed by the end of 2008.

Chairman of the Muslim association Kurshid Ahmed said: "The project is being downscaled but the final shape of the building has yet to be decided."

Almost 60,000 people have signed petitions opposing the mosque. Reasons given include concerns over traffic.

# MICHELE'S GOT SPEX APPEAL!

An entrepreneurial mum is bucking the recession with her own innovative service.

Last year mum of two Michele King created Spex2go.com, a mobile company offering Prescription Glasses and Sunglasses throughout the Midlands. Since then the business has gone from strength to strength and, as a result, Michele has continued to add more and more designer brands to her collection as popularity for her service has increased.

"As I offer a Mobile service, I don't have expensive shop overheads or staffing costs, those savings are gratefully

passed on to our customers. Typically, we save our customers approximately £50 to £150 per pair of glasses and prices start from as little as £29.00 for a complete pair".

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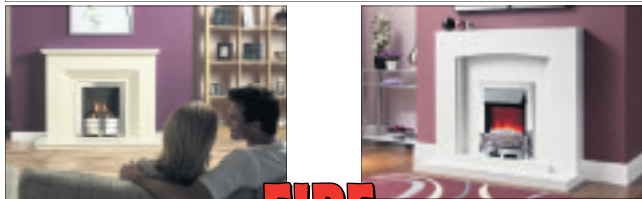
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## Landlord Jim pulls his final pint



Jim Gogarty with chef and fiancée Kim Bastable



Jim with his granddaughter Lacey Mae Williams



Final farewell - Jim and Kim with other regulars

A POPULAR pub landlord has pulled his last pint at the South Staffordshire pub he has run for eight years after losing his life savings in the dream venture that turned into a nightmare.

Jim Gogarty has been forced to call time at the Mount Pleasant pub in Wombourne after dwindling customer numbers dented his profits.

The 62-year-old has run the Ounsdale Road pub with fiancée Kim since 2002 after leaving his well-paid job as sales manager with a stationery company. But he has been

forced to throw in the towel after suffering financial difficulties and stress, with more and more people opting to stay at home rather than going out to the pub. Regulars flocked to the pub for the final leaving party. Among them was Nigel McGookin, who has been a regular at the pub for the past five years.

### Sombre

The 56-year-old, from Bumblehole Meadows in Wombourne, said: "You couldn't wish for a better pub and it is all down to Jim and Kim. It is a shame they are going. The party was slightly sombre

with it being their last night, but it was still a lovely atmosphere. We were celebrating their time here."

Mr McGookin, managing director of Fibrecheck Ltd in Wombourne, added: "Hopefully the new people will carry on with their good work."

The pub will now be passed back to brewery Punch Taverns with 17 part-time staff in limbo until a new landlord is found. Punch Taverns has appointed a temporary manager to keep the pub open while a permanent replacement is recruited.

Anyone interested in taking over the pub should call 0844 848 3279.

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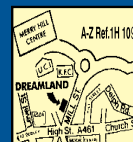
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thechronicle

## Rebuild's just the ticket for bus HQ

### Applying for home gets big shake-up



FORMER bus stands and a large retaining wall at Stourbridge bus station have been reduced to rubble to await a £7 million replacement complex.

The debris will be crushed and re-used to form the base of the new building in Foster Street East.

Work will start on the foundations for the new bus station in weeks once work is completed to replace the old subway.

Lighting will also be improved during the project to create a "transport hub", improving links between the bus station and Stourbridge Town rail station. Project manager Andy Robinson, of construction firm Inter-serve, said the building work was on track to be completed by the end of the year.

"The project is going well. We are just finishing all the demolition and preparatory work before the main construction works begins."

### Demand

The Stourbridge Interchange, due to open in early 2012, will include a shop, improved concourse and electronic passenger timetable boards. CCTV, help points and a public address system will also be installed.

A free shuttle bus service, which has been operating since the old station closed in October, has been extended due to popular demand.

Around 300 people a day have been using the service, prompting transport chiefs to extend it until April 23 when they will again look at numbers again to see if it is worth continuing.

Temporary bus stops have been installed in Birmingham Street, High Street, Market Street and Parkfield Road.

The shuttle bus operates 8am to 6pm, Monday to Saturday.

Above: How it is - contractors Terry McDonald and Andy Robinson on the site now

Left: How it was - the old Stourbridge bus station before it was demolished

Below: How it will be - a computer generated image



THE application process for a council house in Dudley has been overhauled as part of an attempt to tackle the borough's waiting lists.

Changes include cutting the target time for processing applications from eight weeks to two or three weeks by giving all new applicants an interview with a housing adviser rather than hand a form in.

The authority also wants to cut the amount of time a house is empty when someone moves out. Under the new system applicants will be able to view a vacant property and the housing manager will explain any works that will be carried out prior to moving in.

Currently applicants can view a property only once it is ready to move into.

The waiting list for a council house in the Dudley borough stands at 7,677 - including existing tenants looking to transfer to a new property. That is up from 7,098 last year.

There are 353 larger houses occupied by a single person.

Dudley Council says the aim of the review has been to find the most efficient way to help people find suitable housing.

It is the latest in a series of changes to the system including the introduction of a lettings service in 2008 to advertise available properties from the council and other social landlords.

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Vintage – how the rare Stevens three-wheeled van would have looked originally



Tight fit – the vintage vehicle squeezes into a modern van



Demolishing part of the barn in Scotland in order to get at the Stevens van

# Enthusiast to be light van man as a bit of history comes home



David Spruce from Stourbridge who is restoring a 1932 Stevens Brothers van

VINTAGE bike enthusiast David Spruce is about to embark on an 18-month labour of love to restore a rare Wolverhampton-built three-wheeler light van to its former glory.

David, from Stourbridge, travelled all the way to northern Scotland to rescue the dilapidated Stevens Light Commercial van and bring it 'home' to the West Midlands.

The vehicle, which is basically a motorcycle at the front and van at the back, was made in 1932 as the Stevens brothers attempted to get their Wolverhampton manufacturing business back on track following the collapse of their firm AJS the previous year.

## Depression

The brothers' business went into liquidation and was subsequently sold following the Wall Street Crash and the resulting depression.

As a result they were unable to use the AJS name when they returned to manufacturing and the light van was badged as a Stevens Brothers vehicle.

The Light Commercial was a successful product in its day with around 500 being made at the brothers' Retreat Street works.

But only a handful have survived and there



Rescued from a Scottish barn, a piece of motoring history has now been returned to its roots.  
**PETER CARROLL reports**

are thought to be only around half a dozen similar vehicles remaining, with most in foreign ownership.

So when self-employed lorry driver David, of Thicknall Drive, saw the rare Stevens on ebay he immediately made an offer of £1,000 for it.

The owner wanted to hold out for more cash, however, and must have been disappointed when David won the auction with the price at a price of just over £400.

He and a pal subsequently made a near 800-mile return trip to a remote farm near Brora to pick up the Stevens – only to find it was at the back of a barn and they couldn't get it out.

"It was in a terrible, shocking state when we found it and it seems that it had just lain there for nearly 60 years," he said.

"It was stuck at the back of the barn and we couldn't get it out."

Eventually he was given permission to demolish part of the barn in order to remove the vintage vehicle.

"The barn was due to be demolished anyway so I don't think they minded too much.

"The whole job took all afternoon – and then we thought we weren't going to be able to get into our van but it just fitted in."

The Stevens is now in David's workshop and he plans to start the restoration process by fabricating a new chassis.

He has already had a stroke of luck in securing a Stevens engine from a similar van of around that vintage.

## Friends

He intends to do as much of the work as possible and can draw on help from friends who are fellow members of the Vintage Motor Cycle Club.

David, who is aged 43 and married, hopes to complete the restoration in time to show off the Stevens in the summer of 2012.

In the meantime, he is trying to uncover more of the history of the light van – and what it was doing in northern Scotland.

"We found a milk churn in the barn so we think it might have been an early milk float," he said.

When the restoration is complete the Stevens will look similar to another model which is currently owned by the Black Country Living Museum.

"They have already expressed an interest in it but they've already got one so I'll be keeping this one for myself."



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## TRAVEL

# Where the Welcombe is worthy of the Bard

WELCOMBE by name and welcoming by nature, the Menzies Welcombe Hotel, Spa and Golf Club on the outskirts of Stratford-upon-Avon is an ideal refuge in which to recover from the rigours of winter.

One of Warwickshire's premier hotels since the 1930s, the Menzies Welcombe has the traditional comforts of a country house hotel, including huge sofas in an oak panelled lounge warmed by a roaring log fire in a huge marble fireplace, fine food and drink and attentive service.

It combines this with a sparkling purpose-built spa and an 18-hole championship golf course within the surrounding 157 acres of parkland.

Not only is it a prime location in Shakespeare country, it actually was Shakespeare country as some of the land was once owned by the Bard himself.

The Jacobean style mansion was built in the Victorian era for Manchester industrialist and politician Mark Phillips, who is commemorated by a massive obelisk on a nearby hill, and it was later the home of brewer Sir Archibald Flower.

It was built as a 'Calendar House', a property with seven entrances (one for each day of the week), 52 chimneys (for each week of the year), 12 fireplaces (for each month) and 365 windows (for each day of the year). I must admit I was too busy relaxing to verify but I liked the idea that the



Beautiful grounds at the impressive Menzies Welcombe Hotel

magic numbers infuse luck and prosperity to all those who dwell within.

Menzies Hotels bought the property in 2003, restoring the ornate Italian garden and building the impressive spa. The spa facilities, which are free to hotel residents, include an indoor swimming pool, open-air vitality pool, heated loungers, foot spas and a range of 'thermal experience' rooms including a Finnish sauna, steam and cool rooms, ice fountain and storm showers to invigorate.

## Pamper

A selection of Clarins, Elemis and Gerard's treatment rooms offer a range of therapies and treatments, including massages and facials, available for an additional charge for those needing a little pamper time.

The more active can use the state-of-the-art gymnasium, aerobics studio and all-weather tennis courts, or head out on the 18-hole par 70 golf course which once hosted the European Seniors Tour.

If you want to get out and about, Stratford is only three minutes' drive away with its impressive new theatre complex for the Royal Shakespeare Company and historic

houses with Shakespeare connections, plus probably the best array of shops in Warwickshire.

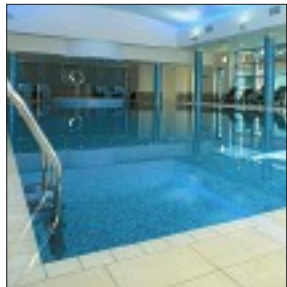
All this will develop an appetite. The hotel's Trevelyan restaurant (named after another previous owner, statesman Sir George Trevelyan) has two AA rosettes and head chef Robin Smith creates delicious dishes using traditional British ingredients.

During my visit he created a twist on rice pudding involving apricots and caramel that was divine. There is an extensive wine list. The hotel is a popular wedding venue and will be holding its annual Wedding Fayre on the afternoon of Sunday, February 27 (call 01789 413826).

The Menzies Welcombe is offering a winter chill-out deal until March on Friday and Sunday nights, with an overnight stay and a three course dinner, bed and breakfast for £60 per person. Book by calling 01789 295252.

Otherwise, prices start from £105 per night for a standard room or from £205 for a room with a four poster bed.

For more information visit [www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk](http://www.welcombehotelstratford.co.uk) or email [welcombe.reservations@menzieshotels.co.uk](mailto:welcombe.reservations@menzieshotels.co.uk)



Indoor pool and a range of 'thermal experience rooms' are on offer

# Cut funding for the speed cameras, council chiefs say

## Girls take prize with football skills

A TEAM of Dudley girls, aged from nine to 11, triumphed in a West Midlands regional seven-a-side football championship – without letting in a single goal between the quarter finals and a nailbiting penalty shoot-out in the final.

The side from Red Hall Primary School, Zoar Street, Lower Gornal, will now represent the West Midlands in the England finals of the competition.

Their headteacher, Nicola Stanley, said: "It's a wonderful achievement and we are terribly proud of the girls. They have a superb coach in teaching assistant Shaun Evans."

The team won the Dudley round of the West Midlands County Schools Football Association Under 11 girls seven-a-side. They then represented the borough against seven other school areas in the region at Braemar Road Playing Fields, Sutton Coldfield, when they scored a total of eight goals.

Goalkeeper Rebecca Millward, aged nine, did not let in any goals all the way through the day until the end of full time, and then extra time, in the final against Park Hill Primary School, Coventry.

Both sides squared up for a penalty shoot-out, which Red Hall Primary won 3-2.



Bottom from left, Kelly Nicklin, Tegan Downes, centre from left, Olivia Carter, Rebecca Millward, Amy Walker, top from left, Abbie Hipkiss, Rhianna Blakesley

FUNDING for old-style speed cameras in the West Midlands should be axed, council chiefs have ruled. Police had wanted about £750,000 for the "wet film" cameras.

This funding is now to be scrapped by the region's councils.

Instead, a recommended £500,000 will be re-invested in newer systems such as mobile patrols and radar signs that flash up warnings.

The move marks the beginning of the end for old-style cameras across the region. Councils have ruled out paying an estimated £1.2million bill for replacing them all with newer models.

Police want to cut the cost of running the region's 304 cameras, 86 of which are already dummies.

## Accidents

Only three cameras in Wolverhampton and 34 regionally are frequently used at present, with operating times limited to 15 days a month.

The West Midlands Joint Committee, a body of senior councillors from across the region, agreed to withdraw funding last week.

Walsall Council leader Mike Bird, stand-in chairman for the committee, said: "The cameras we have are rapidly becoming obsolete."

"The estimate of £1.2m to replace them is money we do not have. There are better ways to reduce accidents on roads, more modern methods."

were also on the list of clients.

Father-of-four Steve Cole, aged 54, of Reddall Hill Road, in Cradley Heath, was a painting and decorating supervisor and the longest serving employee.

He said: "I am disappointed

and surprised. The firm's been like a family to me over 31 years."

Directors were not available for comment and calls were referred to administrators RSM Tenon.

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An unfurnished modern detached house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing.

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An unfurnished semi detached house comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Breakfast Kitchen, Two B

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A furnished to suite first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Breakfast Kitchen, Shower Room, Lounge, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Communal Gardens, and On Road Parking.

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An unfurnished end terrace house, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Lounge, Spacious Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Front and Rear Gardens, Driveway Parking.

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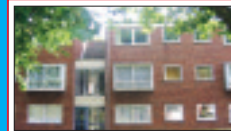
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A furnished first floor flat, briefly comprising of: Warm Air Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, I with NO SHOWER, Communal G

£350 PCM

# Job losses top 70 in property company collapse

A TOTAL of 71 staff lost their jobs as Tipton property and construction firm Image Styles group went into administration.

The company carried out refurbishment, maintenance

and repair work, including painting and decorating, plastering and extensions for customers including Dudley Council, Sandwell and Wolverhampton. Building firms Taylor Woodrow and Thomas Vale

were also on the list of clients. Father-of-four Steve Cole, aged 54, of Reddall Hill Road, in Cradley Heath, was a painting and decorating supervisor and the longest serving employee. He said: "I am disappointed

and surprised. The firm's been like a family to me over 31 years."

Directors were not available for comment and calls were referred to administrators RSM Tenon.



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## Durham Road, Rowley Regis



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## Fallowfield Road, Halesowen



£189,950 **NEW**

A three bedroom semi detached property comprising two reception rooms, kitchen, conservatory, white bathroom suite, garage, front driveway and rear garden.

## Greenwood Avenue, Rowley Regis



£75,950 **NEW**

Two bedroom semi detached property, Lounge, Kitchen, Shower room, Bathroom, Front + Rear Garden, Driveway,

## Lyde Green, Halesowen



£60,000 **NEW**

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## Elbow Street, Cradley Heath



£155,000 **NEW**

Three Bedroom Modern property with en-suite to main, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Conservatory, Garage, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear garden, Double Glazing and Central Heating.

## Wendover Road, Rowley Regis



£110,000 **NEW**

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£105,000 **NEW**

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## Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath



£120,000

Three Bedroom Victorian terraced property with stained glass windows, 2 Reception Rooms, Bathroom, Kitchen, Double Glazing and Central Heating Rear Garden.

## Counterfield Drive, Rowley Regis



£100,000

End terrace, lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, three bedrooms, bathroom, rear garden, off road parking.

## Copperbirch, Halesowen



£205,000

A three bedroom detached property with through lounge, conservatory, kitchen, wc and shower room. Rear garden and garage.

## Dudley Road, Rowley Regis



£100,000

A mid terraced property comprising Lounge, dining room, kitchen/diner. To the first floor there are two bedrooms and family bathroom and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN

## Lansbury Road, Cradley Heath



£100,000

Three bedroom semi detached, Comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, driveway, rear garden, double glazing and central heating, NO UPWARD CHAIN.

## Wesley Avenue, Halesowen



Offers Over £125,000

A three bedroom mid terraced property comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom. The property also benefits from a driveway providing off road parking, double glazing and central heating.

## Canterbury Close, Rowley Regis



£55,000

A second floor flat comprising parking, security intercom entrance door, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom.

## Trinity Street, Cradley Heath



£147,000

Three Bedroom Semi Detached Property, 2 Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Utility, Sunroom, 2 Bedrooms to first floor and Main Bedroom to 2nd Floor, Double Glazing + Central Heating

## Chaddesley Road, Halesowen



£174,995

This semi detached house has dining area, lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, garage, driveway, rear garden. Also benefiting central heating and double glazing.

## Rough Hill Drive, Rowley Regis



£212,500

3/4 Bedroom Detached property, Garage, Ensuite, Study/4th Bedroom, Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Bathroom, Driveway, Rear Garden with double glazing + central heating

## Highfield Road, Rowley Regis



£85,000

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## Court Street, Cradley Heath



£80,000

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## Woodbury Road, Halesowen



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## Need to invest in technology

A NEW government grant to promote the benefits of automation will help kick start a wave of long overdue investment in robotic production equipment, according to a leading Black Country businessman.

Alan Shilton, managing director of Halesowen-based KUKA Automation + Robotics, also believes greater use of robots will make it easier for UK manufacturers to become more competitive at home and abroad.

### Barriers

The £600,000 aid will support a two-year programme that aims to better prepare companies to introduce new automated and robotic systems and will include a series of regional educational events organised by members of the British Automation and Robot Association (BARA) plus other trade bodies.

The grant follows the results of a study, commissioned by the Engineering and Machinery Alliance (EAMA), to identify the main barriers to automation within small and medium sized businesses. KUKA was one of the sponsors of the study, which compared UK companies with firms in Germany, Spain and Sweden.

It revealed that UK producers have fallen a long way behind European competitors in terms of robot use. The report found the main barriers to take-up were lack of skills and a "risk-averse" attitude.

Mr Shilton said: "Provided this grant is used in the right way, it represents a significant amount of engineering

effort that can be applied to providing robust, workable automation solutions for companies that may have shied away from introducing robotics into the workplace in the past.

"This exercise has demonstrated how a group of people, concerned with the way that UK manufacturing lags behind the rest of Europe, can come together to try and address the problem."

"Having seen the results of the work that has been done, the Gov-

ernment has endorsed these efforts and decided to back them up in a tangible way by offering this significant grant. Even though this project was commenced in 2009 well before the new Government came into power, it will likely pave a new way in which businesses and institutions can work together for the benefit of all."

But Mr Shilton warned that further support was required for the UK manufacturing sector because of its crucial role in creating

employment and generating revenue.

"While this Government help is very welcome and a great start, it is only the beginning. We need a healthy, vibrant and innovative manufacturing sector to help bring the country out of its current problems and set us on the road to economic recovery," he added.

The report, Application of Automation in UK Manufacturing, can be found at [www.eama.info/automation-and-growth.htm](http://www.eama.info/automation-and-growth.htm)



Alan Shilton, managing director of Halesowen-based KUKA Automation + Robotics, with one of his company's machines

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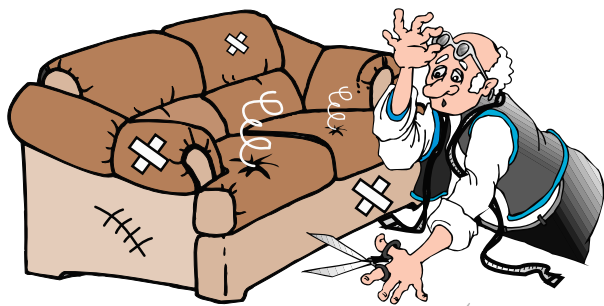
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## thechronicle

# Record numbers of horses roam streets

## Travel boss cooks up a winner

A TRAVEL agent boss from Cradley Heath cooked up a winning recipe in a food competition.

Elaine Nicholson, aged 26, of Clairemont Street, fought off stiff competition at the Agent Masterchef contest aimed at travel agents, run by Travel Weekly and Bole Leisure at Thoresby Hall Hotel and Spa in Nottingham.

The manager of the Halesowen branch of The Midlands Co-operative Travel, had only one day to think of a British dish with a twist after a colleague dropped out of the cooking competition.

She entered with a dish of pork fillets with apple and raisin compote and savoy cabbage with a cider cream sauce, and to her surprise got through to the final.

Miss Nicholson said: "I tried to be traditional, so thought of doing pork, and everyone knows that apple goes with pork so I used a compote and the cider cream sauce to add a twist."

On the day of the competition, the three finalists spent the day with the head chef at the hotel and learnt how to make authentic pizza. Later they cooked their dishes in the professional kitchen at the hotel and were judged by a panel of three judges.

Praised by the judges for her creativity and delicate balance of flavours, Elaine,



Halesowen travel agent Elaine Nicholson proudly shows her Masterchef certificate

who had only cooked her dish once before, won the competition and the prize of a meal for two at one of Jamie Oliver's Italian restaurants.

### Menu

She said: "I was gobsmacked, I never expected it. My jaw hit the floor when they said my name." The

head chef was so impressed by her dish that it is now featured on the menu at Thoresby Hall Hotel.

Miss Nicholson admits that she is nowhere near a professional chef, and enjoys baking rather than cooking main meals. She said: "To do something so out of my comfort zone, I'm just so proud of myself."

MORE than 400 reports of stray horses roaming the streets have been received by Dudley Council in just under a month, an increase that has been described as unprecedented by the authority.

A total of 414 reports have been logged during January compared with 43 during the same month in 2010.

It follows complaints about stray horses causing havoc by trampling gardens and running in front of cars on the Russells Hall estate and in Pensnett and Brierley Hill.

St James's ward councillor Malcolm Davis, who has received complaints from people living on the Russells Hall estate, said today he believed the surge in sightings was due to horse owners no longer being able to afford to keep their animals because of the credit crunch.

"People are fed up of these horses trampling their gardens and causing damage to their homes," he said.

"It is getting beyond a joke. We have more horses in Russells Hall than ever before. People can't afford to keep and feed them."

### Complaints

Last Friday five horses were seen near the Asda store in Venture Way, Brierley Hill, while the day before a group of 10 horses were grazing on a green off Orchard Street in Brockmoor.

The same day, horses caused a nuisance as they wandered along Shakespeare Road, Tipton, holding up motorists and eating rubbish from bin bags.

Walsall and Dudley councils have vowed to team up to tackle the issue following a barrage of complaints from residents.

Dudley Council is also working with the RSPCA and police to find a long-term solution. It currently pays an outside agency £20,400 a year to impound horses and in 2009/10, a dozen were captured.

Dudley Council spokesman Phil Parker said: "While we don't have a reactive service we can direct our enforcement agency to take action to impound the horses as our ultimate sanction."

"However, the problem of illegally grazing and stray horses has seen an unprecedented increase recently."

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# Carer left fuming at council's U-turn on handout

A CARER has hit back at Sandwell Council claiming they never apologised for withdrawing a £11,500 grant he used to look after his severely disabled wife.

But the council has now promised to reimburse him for out-of-pocket expenses incurred because the authority took a U-turn on his application.

Des Brown, of Tipton, said he was left out of pocket when Sandwell Council cancelled the grant application on October 1, last year, the day the money was due to go into his account.

The 62-year-old needed the money to help look after his wife Sharon, who he has cared for full-time for the past 19 years.

But council officers visited his apartment, in High Street, and informed him and his wife, who suffers with deafness, asthma, diabetes and a hip problem, that there had been an "error".

Back in 2009, Sandwell Council told Mr Brown he was eligible for the grant. However, a council official told Mr Brown that he should have never been offered the grant in the first place and that he was not eligible because he lives in an apartment

where residents can call of the council's own carers for extra support, free-of-charge.

The money, which would have been in addition to his £43 per week carer's allowance, was budgeted by Mr Brown to help pay for services such as cleaning, cooking and escorting his 53-year-old wife to her hospital appointments.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for adult social care Councillor Linda Horton said: "We have apologised to Mr Brown and a senior manager has been out to see him and has listened to his complaint."

## Evidence

"We are now waiting for Mr Brown to provide the council with evidence of payments he has made for his wife's care, which we feel is a reasonable thing to ask him to do."

"Once we receive evidence that he has paid for that care, we will be happy to reimburse him for any out of pocket costs that have arisen by him paying for that care."

Last year Cllr Horton said there had been a genuine human error adding that a reimbursement would "ensure Mr Brown was no worse off and that his wives needs

were already being met by the accommodation and support provided by the extra care housing scheme."

However, Mr Brown who said his wife's condition has worsened in the last two years, claims that they are still awaiting a reply from the council.

He also said he believed that the council's lack of understanding has caused a lot of distress for his wife.

Mr Brown claimed: "I have had no response from the council in the way of an apology or reimbursement and I certainly haven't received a visitor from senior management."

"We have been hugely let down by the council and the longer this goes on the angrier I am getting with them and their lack of care."

"And as for saying there is free support where we live, this is ridiculous because any services you require you have to pay for, so obviously we have never used them because we can't afford it."

The council have caused us an endless amount of heartache and although I have receipts for everything I refuse to give them the evidence until they apologise."



Des Brown and his disabled wife Sharon with the letter saying they would not be getting the anticipated financial help from Sandwell Council

## Charities' tea dance

THE Mayor of Dudley is hosting a tea dance to raise money for his chosen charities.

People are invited to show off their dancing skills at Kingswinford Community Centre, High Street, Kingswinford, on March 14.

All proceeds made from the event will go to the mayor's charities which include the Thomas Pocklington Trust, Acorns Children's Hospice and the Alzheimer's Society. Councillor Peter Miller, Mayor of Dudley, said: "This is just one of a series of events we have to raise money for these very worthwhile charities."

"I hope to see as many people there on the day as possible."

The event runs from 2-4pm and admission costs £2.50 which includes refreshments.



Mayor of Dudley Councillor Peter Miller with mayoress Hilary Miller

# Nature spot would be lost, say protesters

WALKERS and bird-watchers say access to "magnificent" views and nature will be lost if a public footpath at a Halesowen beauty spot is closed to make way for a new cricket club.

Residents launched their fight at a public inquiry. They want to save the path in Coombes Wood Green Wedge and stop another one being diverted. The plans are part of a development by St Modwen to build a new

ground for Coombes Wood Cricket Club. But campaigners say the area would be ruined for visitors.

John Ebrey, a surveyor for the British Trust for Ornithology, told the inquiry: "These two paths have facilitated the enjoyment of walkers for at least 90 years."

## Effects

He said skylarks nested near to the paths and would not be seen from the diverted route.

Mr Ebrey and fellow residents including Halesowen North Councillor Jeff Hill confronted devel-

opers at the inquiry at Dudley Council House last week.

But Sarah Clover, for Dudley Council, said: "Many of the objections are centred around concerns about the effects of the development itself rather than the loss of the footpaths."

Council engineer David Jacobs said the diversion would add 10 minutes to a journey but the new path would be easier to walk on.

Planning permission was granted for the sports facility in September 2009. The inquiry decision will be made within nine weeks.

## Lesson sessions for older students

A GROUP which provides a learning environment for retired people has officially opened in Stourbridge.

The Stourbridge branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A) held its launch meeting recently and more than 200 people attended.

Interest was shown in a wide range of subjects including gardening, genealogy, art and craft, music, painting and languages in addition to activities such as theatre visits and walking. It took place at New Road Methodist Church, where monthly meetings will be held from now on.

Members can enrol on Thursday, February 17 from 2pm. More details at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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# Double trouble in mail mix-up for residents

## Business is celebrating success

A FIRM which has been at the heart of Black Country industry for 60 years has fought the recession to increase export sales by 150 per cent.

For decades AJT Equipment has been making a name for itself producing test machines for a variety of tools and equipment.

The products made in the factory in Brockmoor have ended up at all corners of the world.

Some of the machines have been used to test the impact of stress on equipment such as oil pipes.

Director Ian Gordon, aged 43, said the firm had come out of the latest recession fighting and was on track to have one of its best-ever trading years with export sales up by 150 per cent, from £330,000 to £820,000. The firm exports to countries including Russia, India and Australia, Spain and Nigeria.

Mr Gordon began working for the company at the Premier Partnership Estate in The Leys, as an apprentice aged 17.

The company now employs 13 people and to celebrate the 60th anniversary it will hold an open day on April 21.

Manager Julie Parry, aged 39, said: "We want to give people the chance to see what we do. We will be inviting our customers, suppliers and anyone else interested in finding out more about AJT Equipment."



Director Ian Gordon, of Oldswinford, with the firm's manager Julie Parry of Stourbridge



Stan Heather, of High Street, Princes End, Tipton, keeps getting the wrong post

BILLS and documents meant for families in part of Tipton are not reaching their destination because a new housing estate features a road with the same name.

Residents in High Street, Princes End, say ever since the nearby Neptune Park housing estate, which features another road called High Street, was built two years ago, post is being sent to the wrong address.

Mother-of-four Gail Carr, aged 43, has lived in the older High Street for the past 25 years and said the problem had got worse recently.

She said: "I'm getting other people's statements and cheque books all the time. And if I'm getting their post, they could be getting mine. I've been giving the post back to the postman and he's told me it's happening a lot."

Grandfather-of-six Stan Heather, aged 67, who has lived in the old High Street with his wife Pamela for the past 35 years, said: "We have had this problem for the past two years and it's a hassle we don't need."

A Royal Mail spokesman said: "When the new estate was first built there were some misdelivery problems as a result of these similar addresses and they were resolved. The local delivery manager is not aware of any further ongoing problems except for a couple of isolated incidents."

Delivery problems should be reported on 0121 480 7860.

thechronicle

REVIEWS

# Big voice, bruised heart – Adele's 21 has lots of soul

ADELE – 21 (XL)

TWO years on from her hit debut 19 and, as well as the key to the door, Adele Adkins will find the key to the hearts of many more music lovers with this mature and often magnificent album of bluesy soul about bruised and broken hearts.

It opens with the rolling swampy blues thump of Rolling In The Deep and the north Londoner follows it with the better-than-Duffy retro soul pop of Rumour Has It.

The first of the big ballads which dominate this album is Turning Tables. The other songs which showcase a big powerful voice that is capable of tenderness too are the country-tinged Don't You Remember, Take It All and Someone Like You.

The pace is varied with the jazz-urban flavoured He Won't Go, 80s-like rocker Set Fire To The Rain, the gospel-influenced I'll Be Waiting and a gentle version of The Cure's Lovesong transported to Copacabana for a light bossa nova refit.

Which brings us to the final number, Someone Like You, a song about someone losing their

lover to someone else and accepting they'll have to make do with second best. It's shivers down the spine time, like the first time you heard Sinead O'Connor sing Nothing Compares To You or Christina Aguilera warble Beautiful. Audiences will still be asking Adele to sing this one in years to come, even if she gets around to an album called 71.

All in all, an early contender for album of the year and possibly the best British album of its type since Dusty went to Memphis. Adele will be in concert at Birmingham's HMV Forum on April 18.

**BRUNO MARS – DOO-WOPS & HOOLIGANS (ELEKTRA)**

The 25-year-old Hawaiian has a supple soulful voice with a hint of grit, first widely heard when he guested on rapper Travie McCoy's global hit Billionaire. His debut is almost a masterpiece on how to make modern pop hits, full of bright-eyed positivism surging melodies, romantic yearning vocals and crisp state-of-the-art production. Style-wise, it ranges from power ballad to gentle reggae, and guests include B.O.B., Damian Marley and Cee Lo Green.

When an album starts with two pop songs as good as Grenade and Just The Way You Are, you are hooked, even if a couple of lesser tracks sound a bit like filler.

**GLEE, THE MUSIC, VOLUME 4 (SONY MUSIC)**

The cult TV show about a high school singing club is back on our screens and here is a selection of songs from season two, including Glee revamps of Empire State Of Mind, Billionaire, Toxic, Forget You (with Gwyneth Paltrow) and Valerie. Highlights include Rachel's (Lea Michele)

version of Paramore's The Only Exception, Kurt's (Chris Colfer) tender reboot of The Beatles' I Want To Hold Your Hand and – step forward Mercedes (Amber Riley) and Santana (Naya Rivera) – River Deep Mountain High.

**THE STREETS – COMPUTERS AND BLUES (679 RECORDINGS)**

Dry your eyes, yes this is Birmingham rapper/urban poet Mike Skinner's fifth and final album. The Streets but it will not be the last we hear of him. And he ends with a strong album, filled with melodic and lyrical hooks, wit and even a hint of optimism.

Blip On A Screen is about seeing your unborn child on a hospital scanner screen ("You're growing thumbs/I'm going numb/fucked into your mum/Looks like it could be quite fun"). There are songs about conducting relationships via Facebook and spending too much time playing console games, and a potential hit single in Going Through Hell with Robert Harvey from the Music as guest singer. Say farewell to The Streets at Birmingham O2 Academy on February 25.

**JAMES BLAKE (ATLAS/A&M)**

A singer-songwriter for the dubstep generation, this young Londoner creates ethereal, ghost in the machine electro-ballads epitomised by this album's opener, the effects heavy Unluck. On Unluck Blake sounds like a broken hearted robot, if robots had hearts. For all its strangeness, there is something attractive and naggingly memorable about Blake's songs. One of the more conventional songs, a cover of Feist's Limit To Your Love, has already been a top 10 hit in several European countries.

Leon Burakowski

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Adele's powerful emotional vocals on new album 21 recall the late, great Dusty Springfield



# Blinded rifleman is set to tackle mountain challenge for charity

## Heroic soldier ready to scale new heights



Paul in Afghanistan before he was injured



Recovering at Selly Oak Hospital, Birmingham

A DEVASTATING Taliban bomb blast blinded him and left him fighting for his life. But Black Country soldier Paul Jacobs, awarded the George Medal for his bravery, is ready to take on a new challenge – climbing a 20,000ft mountain for charity.

Rifleman Jacobs, aged 21, and serving with the 2nd Battalion The Rifles, was left sightless when a bomb was detonated as he was serving in Afghanistan in 2009.

The bomb killed two of his comrades and embedded shrapnel in his eyes. But after 18 months of treatment and recovery, he plans to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, be the first blind man to swim the Channel – and has fallen in love with the hospital worker who helped nurse him to health.

"It was hard. At the beginning it was very difficult to deal with," he says. "But I'm not the kind of guy to let it get the best of me – I'm just trying to get on with it now. There's no keeping this ginger nut down."

Heroic soldier Rifleman Paul Jacobs is aiming to raise £8,000 for the charity that helped him recover after he was blinded while on service in Afghanistan. He tells **CHARLOTTE CROSS** about his mountain climbing challenge



Rfn Jacobs was awarded the George Medal for his "faultless courage, selflessness and dedication to his unit", helping to evacuate his comrades from the danger zone, despite being seriously injured.

He was flown to Selly Oak Hospital in Birmingham for treatment, where he met military ward healthcare assistant Louise Smith, 24, in September 2009 and proposed on her birthday, February 18.

Louise – who has worked at the hospital where seriously injured British troops are treated for just over a year – says: "He slowly made an impression on me. He's always joking, he never stops."

Asked what attracted her to Rfn Jacobs, she said: "I can't pinpoint one thing. You just get to know the guys when they're on the wards."

"You have to have a laugh with them. It's more uplifting than being serious about things because some of the situations are really sad. I consider it part of the job."

Rfn Jacobs moved from London to Stourbridge to be with her after they got engaged. The wedding will be at Worcester in April.

"I leave all the planning to her – all I have to do is show up and say 'yes'," he jokes. "Then I can start wearing slippers and enjoying married life."

Louise's father Peter, 49, of Lawn Avenue, Stourbridge, will tackle Mount Kilimanjaro with him as they try to raise cash for charity St Dunstan's, which provides help and support to blind ex-servicemen.

"I've already done the London Marathon and an Olympic-sized triathlon. Just because I can't see doesn't mean I have to be held back," says Rfn Jacobs. "I'm doing it for St Dunstan's as they have been a real lifeline. This is my way of giving something back."

He said St Dunstan's built up his confidence in using computers and walking with a white cane.

The pair are looking forward to tackling the 19,685ft-high mountain, Africa's highest peak and the tallest free-standing mountain in the world.

### Fitness

He and Mr Smith, a heating engineer for TDR Mechanical Ltd in Pensnett, are currently training to build up their fitness. They will face six hours of gruelling climbing each day – a test of mental and physical stamina – and hope to raise at least £8,000 for St Dunstan's.

Rfn Jacobs says: "It's one of the toughest challenges I've faced but I won't give up until I reach the summit."



Rifleman Paul Jacobs is to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of St Dunstan's. He is pictured with St Dunstan's trustee David Stuttard

After winning the George Medal, he spoke of the harrowing incident that left him blind.

"Another lad from the platoon decided to do a small search up an alleyway and he tripped a device, killing him."

"There was nothing left of him."

There was a second explosion and then another blast which killed a second colleague and injured him.

"I can't really remember too much apart from seeing the fallen soldier) and then waking up in Selly Oak."

To sponsor the Kilimanjaro expedition go to the website at <http://www.justgiving.com/> or make cheques payable to St Dunstan's and post them to the fundraising department at 12-14, Harcourt Street, London W1H 4HD, stating the payment is for Rifleman Paul Jacobs' Mount Kilimanjaro challenge.



Paul with his fiancée Louise Smith, age 24

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# the pulse

## How any dream came true



Liam Gallagher leads his new band Beady Eye to Wolverhampton

### Liam has his Beady Eye on city tour date

BEADY Eye, the band formed by singer Liam Gallagher and other former members of the last incarnation of Oasis, come to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Sunday, April 24, as part of their first UK tour.

The group was formed after the exit of Liam's brother, chief songwriter Noel Gallagher, meant the end of the hugely popular Britpop band.

In Beady Eye Liam is joined by guitarists Gem Archer (ex-Heavy Stereo) and Andy Bell (ex-Ride) with drummer Chris Sharrock (ex-La's).

They release their debut single, The Roller, and album Different Gear, Still Speeding, later this month.

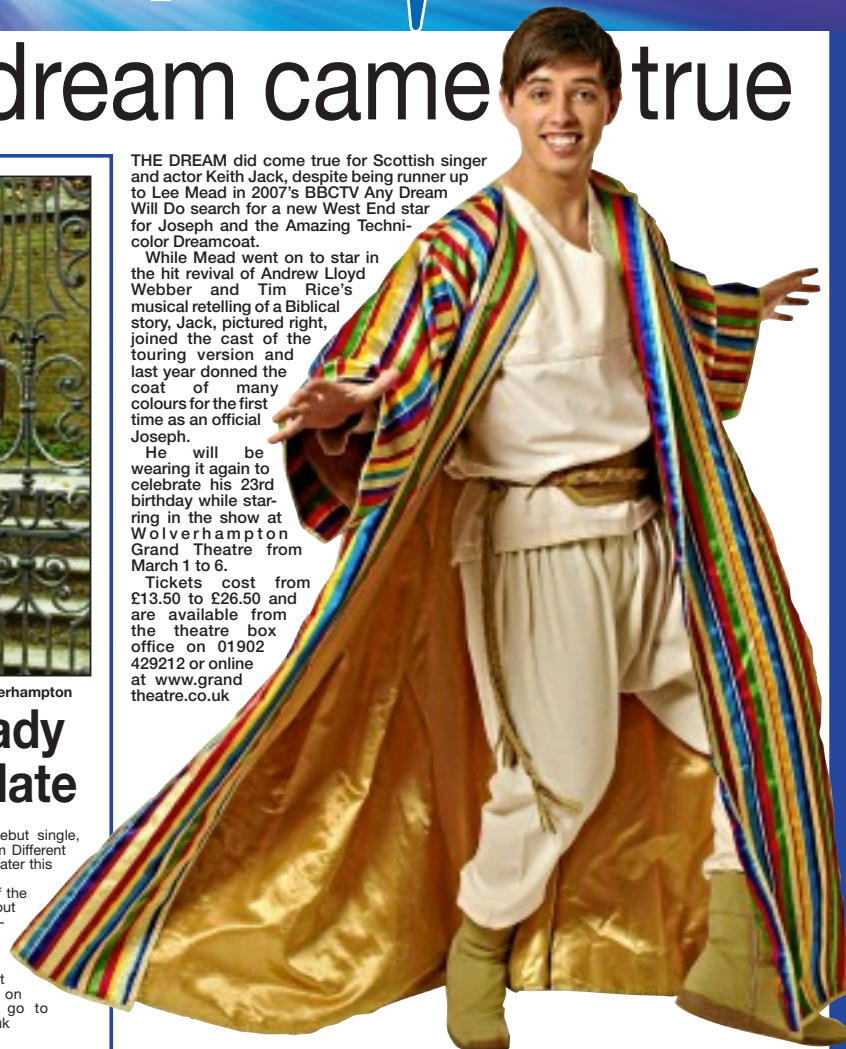
To get a preview of the band's songs check out their website - [www.beadyeyemusic.com](http://www.beadyeyemusic.com) - and for tickets, which are priced £27.50, contact Midland Box Office on 0870 320 7000 or go to [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

THE DREAM did come true for Scottish singer and actor Keith Jack, despite being runner up to Lee Mead in 2007's BBC TV Any Dream Will Do search for a new West End star for Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

While Mead went on to star in the hit revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's musical retelling of a Biblical story, Jack, pictured right, joined the cast of the touring version and last year donned the coat of many colours for the first time as an official Joseph.

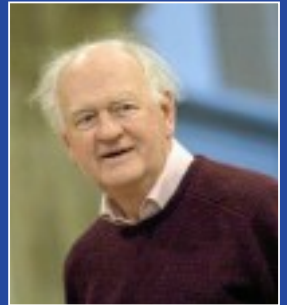
He will be wearing it again to celebrate his 23rd birthday while starring in the show at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from March 1 to 6.

Tickets cost from £13.50 to £26.50 and are available from the theatre box office on 01902 429212 or online at [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

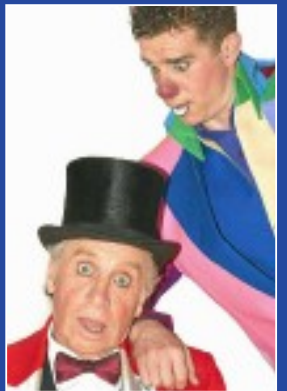


Four pages of television starts - page 26

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Round-up of shows - page 25



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# Play that will have you in tears

**W**ARTIME weepy Goodnight Mister Tom is being brought to the stage at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre from Tuesday.

The play is an adaptation of Michelle Magorian's popular children's novel about how a young London evacuee with a sad secret forges a friendship with his cantankerous old host, the titular Mister Tom, in a rural community.

Playing Mister Tom, a role associated with the late John Thaw from a popular TV film version, is Royal Shakespeare Company actor Oliver Ford Davies, who will be familiar to fans of the blockbuster Star Wars movies as Sio Bibble in The Phantom Menace, Attack of the Clones and Revenge of the Sith. He was also Polonius to David Tennant's Hamlet at Stratford.

Goodnight Mister Tom is staged at the Grand nightly from February 8 to 12 with matinees on the Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. Tickets are priced from £6.50 to £22.50.

## Joined

There is music and mirth at the Lichfield Street theatre this weekend with the Magic of Motown ensemble playing the Motor City's greatest hits in a soul tribute concert on Saturday. Then modern day clown Danny Adams and ring master Clive Webb, father and son, are joined by the rest of the Circus Hilarious crew for family-friendly comedy at 1.30 and 6pm on Sunday.

The week after sees the return of Tamworth-based singing star Niki Evans as Mrs Johnstone in Willy Russell's classic Scouse musical Blood Brothers, at the Grand from February 14 to 19.

Craig Revel Horwood's flamboyant revival of 1980s musical Chess, created by the ABBA pair of Benny Andersson and Bjorn Ulvaeus with



Oliver Ford Davies stars in Goodnight Mister Tom at The Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton



Ringmaster Clive Webb and clown Danny Adams appear with Circus Hilarious



Hardeep Singh Kohli will bring his "chat show with curry" show to Wolverhampton

Sir Tim Rice, returns to the West Midlands at Birmingham Hippodrome from Monday to the following Saturday.

Shona White stars as the woman caught between two Chess grandmasters, one Russian and one American, in the show which includes the hit songs I Know Him So Well and One Night In Bangkok. Members of the Birmingham Royal Ballet move across the city centre from their home venue at the Hippodrome to the Symphony Hall for an evening of Music and Dance presented by the company's director David Bintley tomorrow night (Friday).

The show is the last hurrah of the company's 20th anniversary year in the city and will include highlights from the BRB's repertoire, including the much-loved Hobson's Choice

and La Fille mal Gardee. Birmingham Rep's first off-site production is Kenny Baraka's musical post-apocalyptic tale The Rememberers, the one hour tale of a teenager who holds the key to mankind's future.

It will be held in a warehouse at the AE Harris Building in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter from tomorrow (Friday) to February 19. Contact the box office on 0121 236 4455.

## Tribute

Circus of Horrors bring their modern day freak show to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday and it is for over 16s only.

The one-nighters at the Alex continue with a visit by psychic Sally Morgan on Wednesday.

Roger Dean and the Lazy Boys present their tribute to a country music legend in The Johnny Cash

Story on Friday, February 11. Birmingham School of Acting's spring season includes Jewish drama A Dybbuk in the main house at The Crescent Theatre in Birmingham from February 9 to 12.

During the same period, BSA perform adults-only drama Piano/Forte in the Crescent's Ron Barber Studio.

Raconteur, cook and comedian Hardeep Singh Kohli follows up his Nearly Naked Chef show with Chat Masala, which he describes as a "chat show with curry".

The Glaswegian host will interview local guests, including Wolverhampton-born Times journalist Sathnam Sanghera, author of The Boy with the Top Knot, and Black Country medium Philip Solomon, and everyone will get a chance to sample his curry. It takes place at Wolverhampton's Arena Theatre on Wednesday, February 9.

Comedy highlights will also feature East End comic Micky Flanagan at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday. That's the same venue for Punt and Dennis, They Should Get Out More show on February 9. John Shuttleworth will be at the Town Hall on February 10.

## Culture

In Wolverhampton, comedienne Andi Osho, from Channel 4's Stand Up For The Week, is at The Slade Rooms on Sunday night as part of her first tour, Afroblighty. It tells of her inspiring culture clash upbringing as a child of Nigerian parents being brought up in London's East End.

The Broad Street venue also hosts Occult Comedian Andrew O'Neill on February 9.

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## Sunday TV

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## Choice



## THE PROMISE

Channel 4, 8pm

Channel 4 may have been criticised in recent years for its over-reliance on reality shows (Big Brother in particular) to pull in the numbers, but every now and then it goes up with a real gem of a drama. It is not a home of not only Red Riding and, more recently, Any Human Heart, but it is also about to broadcast The Promise, the latest work from acclaimed writer Peter Kosminsky. Set in two bedrooms, it tells the parallel stories of two young Londoners, Erin and her gay father, Lou. Erin is about to start her first job, and Lou is about to start his new job as part of the British government's efforts in Pakistan during the 1940s.

## BBC1

**10pm** **Deadliest Catch: Season 10** The crew of the *Albatross* are back on the water, hunting for the world's largest crab. **11pm** **The Big Bang Theory** The crew of the *Albatross* are back on the water, hunting for the world's largest crab. **11pm** **The Big Bang Theory** The crew of the *Albatross* are back on the water, hunting for the world's largest crab.

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BBC1 News

## BBC2

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BBC2 News

## ITV1

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ITV1 News

## Channel 4

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Channel 4 News

## Channel 5

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Channel 5 News

## Digital

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Digital News

# kaben?

come dine with us...

## VALENTINES DAY

# 4 Course Meal

...1st Course...

Papadoms with Selection of Chutneys

...2nd Course... A choice of

Crispy Tandoori Jhinga

Small Tandoori King Prawns wrapped in a crispy pastry and eventually shallow fried

OR Murgh Aloo Bora

Lightly spiced chicken wrapped with mashed potatoes, lastly fried in breadcrumbs

OR Vegetable Aloo Bora

Lightly spiced vegetable wrapped with mashed potatoes, lastly fried in breadcrumbs

...3rd Course... A choice of

Lamb Roast Bhuna Lamb steaks roasted in with herbs and spices.

OR Murgh Roast Bhuna Chicken steaks roasted in with herbs and spices.

OR Shobji Roast Bhuna Mixed vegetables roasted in with herbs and spices.

All served with a Tenga Keema sauce (Hot, Medium, Mild or Sweet)

Pilau Rice and Naan Bread

...4th Course...

Freshly prepared Strawberry Cheesecake

OR Cream Coffee

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Expires Sunday 27th February 2011. Cannot be used on Valentines Day  
Only 1 voucher per order. Cannot be used with any other offers.

TERMS &amp; CONDITIONS



[illegible]

**TV-14** 6.00 *Explored* 6.30 *Longitude* 6.25 *The Jeremy Kyle Show* 7.30 *This Morning* 12.30 *Loose Women* 1.30 *ITV News/Weather* 1.55 *Police News/Weather* 2.00 *My Best House* 2.15 3.00 *Idolpoint* 3.00 *Red Red* 3.30 *Regional News* 3.50 *Mickmore Murder* 4.00 5.00 *The Chase* 5.00 *Regional News/Weather* 5.50 *ITV News/Weather* 6.00 *Emile* 6.30 *Coronation Street* 7.00 *The Ladies* 7.30 *Coronation Street* 8.00 *The Biggest Loser* 9.00 *ITV News at Ten/Weather* 9.30 *Regional News/Weather* 9.45 *Total Emergency* 10.15 *Sat Sunday Night Show* 10.30 *Grindell* 10.45 *The Zone* 11.00 *ITV News Headlines* 1.30 *The Zone* 1.45 *ITV News* 1.55 *ITV News* 2.00 *ITV News* 2.15 *ITV News* 2.30 *ITV News* 2.45 *ITV News* 2.55 *ITV News* 3.00 *ITV News* 3.15 *ITV News* 3.30 *ITV News* 3.45 *ITV News* 3.55 *ITV News* 4.00 *ITV News* 4.15 *ITV News* 4.30 *ITV News* 4.45 *ITV News* 4.55 *ITV News* 5.00 *ITV News* 5.15 *ITV News* 5.30 *ITV News* 5.45 *ITV News* 5.55 *ITV News* 6.00 *ITV News* 6.15 *ITV News* 6.30 *ITV News* 6.45 *ITV News* 6.55 *ITV News* 7.00 *ITV News* 7.15 *ITV News* 7.30 *ITV News* 7.45 *ITV News* 7.55 *ITV News* 8.00 *ITV News* 8.15 *ITV News* 8.30 *ITV News* 8.45 *ITV News* 8.55 *ITV News* 9.00 *ITV News* 9.15 *ITV News* 9.30 *ITV News* 9.45 *ITV News* 9.55 *ITV News* 10.00 *ITV News* 10.15 *ITV News* 10.30 *ITV News* 10.45 *ITV News* 10.55 *ITV News* 11.00 *ITV News* 11.15 *ITV News* 11.30 *ITV News* 11.45 *ITV News* 11.55 *ITV News* 12.00 *ITV News* 12.15 *ITV News* 12.30 *ITV News* 12.45 *ITV News* 12.55 *ITV News* 1.00 *ITV News* 1.15 *ITV News* 1.30 *ITV News* 1.45 *ITV News* 1.55 *ITV News* 2.00 *ITV News* 2.15 *ITV News* 2.30 *ITV News* 2.45 *ITV News* 2.55 *ITV News* 3.00 *ITV News* 3.15 *ITV News* 3.30 *ITV News* 3.45 *ITV News* 3.55 *ITV News* 4.00 *ITV News* 4.15 *ITV News* 4.30 *ITV News* 4.45 *ITV News* 4.55 *ITV News* 5.00 *ITV News* 5.15 *ITV News* 5.30 *ITV News* 5.45 *ITV News* 5.55 *ITV News* 6.00 *ITV News* 6.15 *ITV News* 6.30 *ITV News* 6.45 *ITV News* 6.55 *ITV News* 7.00 *ITV News* 7.15 *ITV News* 7.30 *ITV News* 7.45 *ITV News* 7.55 *ITV News* 8.00 *ITV News* 8.15 *ITV News* 8.30 *ITV News* 8.45 *ITV News* 8.55 *ITV News* 9.00 *ITV News* 9.15 *ITV News* 9.30 *ITV News* 9.45 *ITV News* 9.55 *ITV News* 10.00 *ITV News* 10.15 *ITV News* 10.30 *ITV News* 10.45 *ITV News* 10.55 *ITV News* 11.00 *ITV News* 11.15 *ITV News* 11.30 *ITV News* 11.45 *ITV News* 11.55 *ITV News* 12.00 *ITV News* 12.15 *ITV News* 12.30 *ITV News* 12.45 *ITV News* 12.55 *ITV News* 1.00 *ITV News* 1.15 *ITV News* 1.30 *ITV News* 1.45 *ITV News* 1.55 *ITV News* 2.00 *ITV News* 2.15 *ITV News* 2.30 *ITV News* 2.45 *ITV News* 2.55 *ITV News* 3.00 *ITV News* 3.15 *ITV News* 3.30 *ITV News* 3.45 *ITV News* 3.55 *ITV News* 4.00 *ITV News* 4.15 *ITV News* 4.30 *ITV News* 4.45 *ITV News* 4.55 *ITV News* 5.00 *ITV News* 5.15 *ITV News* 5.30 *ITV News* 5.45 *ITV News* 5.55 *ITV News* 6.00 *ITV News* 6.15 *ITV News* 6.30 *ITV News* 6.45 *ITV News* 6.55 *ITV News* 7.00 *ITV News* 7.15 *ITV News* 7.30 *ITV News* 7.45 *ITV News* 7.55 *ITV News* 8.00 *ITV News* 8.15 *ITV News* 8.30 *ITV News* 8.45 *ITV News* 8.55 *ITV News* 9.00 *ITV News* 9.15 *ITV News* 9.30 *ITV News* 9.45 *ITV News* 9.55 *ITV News* 10.00 *ITV News* 10.15 *ITV News* 10.30 *ITV News* 10.45 *ITV News* 10.55 *ITV News* 11.00 *ITV News* 11.15 *ITV News* 11.30 *ITV News* 11.45 *ITV News* 11.55 *ITV News* 12.00 *ITV News* 12.15 *ITV News* 12.30 *ITV News* 12.45 *ITV News* 12.55 *ITV News* 1.00 *ITV News* 1.15 *ITV News* 1.30 *ITV News* 1.45 *ITV News* 1.55 *ITV News* 2.00 *ITV News* 2.15 *ITV News* 2.30 *ITV News* 2.45 *ITV News* 2.55 *ITV News* 3.00 *ITV News* 3.15 *ITV News* 3.30 *ITV News* 3.45 *ITV News* 3.55 *ITV News* 4.00 *ITV News* 4.15 *ITV News* 4.30 *ITV News* 4.45 *ITV News* 4.55 *ITV News* 5.00 *ITV News* 5.15 *ITV News* 5.30 *ITV News* 5.45 *ITV News* 5.55 *ITV News* 6.00 *ITV News* 6.15 *ITV News* 6.30 *ITV News* 6.45 *ITV News* 6.55 *ITV News* 7.00 *ITV News* 7.15 *ITV News* 7.30 *ITV News* 7.45 *ITV News* 7.55 *ITV News* 8.00 *ITV News* 8.15 *ITV News* 8.30 *ITV News* 8.45 *ITV News* 8.55 *ITV News* 9.00 *ITV News* 9.15 *ITV News* 9.30 *ITV News* 9.45 *ITV News* 9.55 *ITV News* 10.00 *ITV News* 10.15 *ITV News* 10.30 *ITV News* 10.45 *ITV News* 10.55 *ITV News* 11.00 *ITV News* 11.15 *ITV News* 11.30 *ITV News* 11.45 *ITV News* 11.55 *ITV News* 12.00 *ITV News* 12.15 *ITV News* 12.30 *ITV News* 12.45 *ITV News* 12.55 *ITV News* 1.00 *ITV News* 1.15 *ITV News* 1.30 *ITV News* 1.45 *ITV News* 1.55 *ITV News* 2.00 *ITV News* 2.15 *ITV News* 2.30 *ITV News* 2.45 *ITV News* 2.55 *ITV News* 3.00 *ITV News* 3.15 *ITV News* 3.30 *ITV News* 3.45 *ITV News* 3.55 *ITV News* 4.00 *ITV News* 4.15 *ITV News* 4.30 *ITV News* 4.45 *ITV News* 4.55 *ITV News* 5.00 *ITV News* 5.15 *IT*

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**EBC1** 6:00 Breakfast 6:15 Wanted Down Under 7:00 Home Under the Hammer (R) EBC News/Weather 7:10 Save My Holiday 7:30 Countdown in the City (R) 7:40 The Big Bang Theory 7:50 The Big Bang Theory 8:00 EBC News/Weather 12:00 Regional News/Weather 1:15 Doctors 2:15 Escape to the Country 3:00 EBC News/Weather, Regional News/Weather 4:15 Wildest Link (R) 4:30 EBC News/Weather 5:30 The Big Bang Theory 6:00 EBC News/Weather 7:00 The One Show 7:30 Entertainment 8:00 News/Regional News 8:30 Holly City 8:40 Outrage 9:00 EBC News/Weather 9:25 The Big Bang Theory 9:30 The Big Bang Theory 10:15 First: Road Trip (2000) Comedy, starring Brooklyn Beard/Weatherline 10:30 Skin Zone See Hest (R) 1:00 Human Planet (R) 2:30 The Road Family and Me (R) 3:00 Save My Holiday (R) 3:25 EBC News

**ITV1** 6.00 Daybreak; 8.30 Lorraine; 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show; 10.30 This Morning; 12.30 Loose Women; 1.30 ITV News Weather; 1.55 Regional News; Weather; 2.00 King Of The Best Cookery Competition; 2.30 The Big Breakfast; 3.00 The Chase; 3.30 The X Factor; 4.00 The Chase; 4.30 The Chase; 5.00 The Chase; 5.30 Regional News; Weather; 6.30 ITV News Weather; 7.00 Emmerdale; 8.00 Lion Country; 8.30 Tugboat; 9.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather; 9.30 Regional News Weather; 10.35 The Secret Gardeners with Taylor Brown; 11.00 The Secret Gardeners with Taylor Brown; 11.30 Zone TV; 11.50 News Headlines; 12.5 Crooking Jordan; 1.30 ITV Nightcross; 5.30 ITV Morning News.

**Channel 5**

**7-8 p.m.** *Mikado!*, 0.15 The Wild! Start 11.00  
*The Vineland Show*, 11.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, 9.00  
New Life in the Country, 9.15 Home & Away, 2.15  
Home and Aways, 2.45 The Family Pledge, 6.30  
Animal Rescue Squad, 9.15 All Time Low, 2.50  
Midpoint, 9.45 Home and Away, 9.15  
Two Days, 9.20 Five News at 5.30  
Standby... Police, 11.00  
Standby: The Inside Story New series. The work of staff behind the scenes at the UK's airports.  
Five News at 8, 8.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, 9.00  
The home of a competitive boarder, 10.00 CSI: Miami, 10.55 CSI: NY, 9.15 New Law & Order, 9.15  
CSI: Crime Scene Investigation The FBI Files, 9.15  
Auntie's Kitchen, 9.15

**BBC1** 9.00 Breakfast 9.15 'Amned Down Under' 9.30 Home Under the Hammer 9.35 BBC News/Weather 10.00 Saturday Night 10.15 South in the Ash 10.30 BBC News/Weather 11.00 BBC News/Weather 11.15 Regional News/Weather 11.45 Doctor 2.15 Escape to the Country 2.30 BBC News/Weather/Regional News/Weather 2.45 The Big Breakfast 3.00 BBC News/Weather 3.30 Regional News/Programme 3.45 BBC News/Weather 3.55 The One Show 2.30 R. Off Britain 4.00 BBC News/Regional News 4.30 Weather Report 4.50 Forgotten Heroes: Panama 5.00 The Big Breakfast 5.15 Regional News/Weather 5.30 The National Lottery/Wealthy Night Drive 5.35 Film 2011 with Claudia Whitehead National Lottery Update 12.15 Film Dialogue (1999) Thriller re-release, starring Sharon Stone and Kevin Spacey 12.30 BBC News/Weather 1.00 Country Topic R. 2.00 National World R. 3.00

**ITV4** 6.00 *Dynasty*, 7.30 *Lorraine*, 8.25 *The Jeremy Kyle Show*, 9.30 *Thick Thinning*, 10.30 *Loose Women*, 11.30 *ITV News*, *Weather*, 12.35 *Regional News*, *Weather*, 2.00 *My Big Bad House*, 3.00 *Midnight Red Deer*, 3.50 *Regional News*, 4.00 *Wilkinson Murder*, 4.25 *Regional News*, 4.50 *The Claude Lorraine Show*, 5.30 *ITV News*, *Weather*, 7.00 *Live International Football: Denmark v England* (kick-off 7.15pm), 9.30 *Harry Hill's TV Bunx*, *RF*, 10.00 *ITV News at Ten*, *Weather*, 10.30 *Regional News*, *Weather*, 10.55 *Was There When the Beatles Played the Last Time?*, 11.00 *ITV News*, 11.30 *ITV News at Eleven*, 11.55 *Corrie*, 12.00 *ITV News at Twelve*, 1.35 *Flint The Tiling Man*, 1.50 *ITV News*, 2.00 *ITV News*, 2.15 *ITV News at Two*, 2.30 *ITV News*, 2.45 *ITV News*, 3.00 *ITV News at Three*, 3.15 *ITV News*, 3.30 *ITV News*, 3.45 *ITV News*, 4.00 *ITV News*, 4.15 *ITV News*, 4.30 *ITV News*, 4.45 *ITV News*, 5.00 *ITV News*, 5.15 *ITV News*, 5.30 *ITV 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**BBC1** 6.00 Breakfast 10.15 Wanted Down Under 10.30 Homes Under the Hammer (R) BBC News Weather 11.00 Strictly Micky 11.05 Catch the Big Fish (R) BBC News Weather 11.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 1.30 Regional News 1.55 Doctor Who 2.00 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 2.30 Doctor Who 2.55 Doctor Who 3.00 BBC News Weather Regional News 3.15 Doctor Who 3.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 4.30 Regional News 4.55 Doctor Who 5.00 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 5.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 6.30 Regional News 6.55 Doctor Who 7.00 The One Show 7.25 Endersburg BBC News Regional News 8.00 The One Show 8.15 Doctor Who 8.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 8.55 Doctor Who 9.00 The Big Bang Theory (R) BBC News Weather 9.35 Question Time 11.05 This Week: Shilling Weatherline 12.25 Sign Zone 12.30 Weatherline The Secret Story: Farnham (R) 12.55 Countryfile (R) 1.05 Antiques Roadshow 1.30 The Big Bang Theory (R) 1.55 The Big Bang Theory (R) 2.25 BBC News

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**BEC1** 5:00 Breakfast 5:15 Wanted: Dead or Alive 5:30 Homecoming Under the Hammer (R) BEC News (Weather) 5:55 Scare My Hobbies 11:55 Good Inside the Garden (R) BEC News (Weather) 12:00 BEC News (Weather) 12:30 Regional News (Weather) 12:55 Doctor's 2:15 Escape to the Country 3:00 BEC News (Weather) Regional News 3:30 The 5:15 Weekend 5:30 BEC News (Weather) 6:30 Regional News (Programme) (Weather) 7:00 The One Show 7:20 A Question of Sport (R) BEC News (Regional News 3:00 Regional News 3:30 G.I. Guy 5:00 Huckle 10:00 BEC News (Regional News) 10:30 The Big Breakfast Graham Norton Show 11:20 The Saturday Night Takeaway 11:30 Final Fight at Your Door (2005) (Weather) 1:05 Skin Zone at Home with the Georgians (R) 2:05 Hobnob What's the Deal? 2:30 The Big Breakfast 3:35 Scare My Hobbies (R) 3:50 BEC News (Weather)

**ITV** 5.00 Daybreak; 6.30 Lorraine; 8.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show; 9.30 This Morning; 10.30 Loose Women; 11.15 ITV News; Weather at 11.30; Royal Variety Performance at 11.45; House With A Difference Red Deal; 12.30 Regional Weather; 1.00 Midsomer Murders; 7.50 The Chase; 6.00 Regional News; Weather at 6.30; ITV News; Weather; 7.00 Emmerdale; 7.30 Coronation Street; 8.00 Children's Hospital; 8.30 Coronation Street; 9.00 Comedy Rocks with Jason Manford; 9.15 ITV News; Ten After Two; 10.00 Regional News; Weather; 10.30 The Big Audience; 11.00/11.30 The Life Line; 12.00/12.30

**Channel 5** 5.05 **Mikeshaw** 0.35  
 5.10 **Wild Start** 11.00 **The**  
**Unsung Show** 11.45 **C&E: Crime**  
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<p>SJM CONCERTS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE</b> 13 FEB I LG ARENA</p>	<p>LCHF PRESENTS</p> <p><b>SEWING FOR PLEASURE FASHION &amp; EMBROIDERY AND HOBBYCRAFTS</b> 24 - 27 MAR I HALLS 11 &amp; 12, THE NEC</p>	<p>KENNEDY STREET BY ARR WITH THE AGENCY GROUP PRESENTS</p> <p><b>RUSH</b> 22 MAY I LG ARENA</p>	
<p>JA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS</p> <p><b>THE X FACTOR LIVE</b> 19 - 20 FEB I LG ARENA</p>	<p>LIVE NATION PRESENTS</p> <p><b>WESTLIFE</b> WITH GUESTS WONDERLAND 25 &amp; 31 MAR I LG ARENA</p>	<p>MARSHALL ARTS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>SADE</b> 29 MAY I LG ARENA</p>	
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<p>JA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS</p> <p><b>BOYZONE</b> 2 MAR I LG ARENA</p>	<p>KENNEDY STREET PRESENTS</p> <p><b>THE JAMES TAYL ORCHESTRA</b> 6 APR I THE NIA</p>	<p>TONY DENTON PROMOTIONS</p> <p><b>HERE AND NOW</b> FLAT OUT BROTHER BOOTS, CHERRYBLOWN, JAMIE SOMMERVILLE, BELINDA CARLISLE, MILOD OKE, POPPER &amp; SHIRLEY A'PLOCK OF SEABOULE 24 JUN I LG ARENA</p>	
<p>CLADRON EVENTS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>THE TIMES PRESENTS DESTINATIONS: THE HOLIDAY &amp; TRAVEL SHOW</b> 4 - 6 MAR I THE NEC</p>	<p>JA ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS</p> <p><b>WWE WRESTLEMANIA REVENGE TOUR</b> 16 APR I LG ARENA</p>	<p>SJM CONCERTS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>BLINK-182</b> 1 JUL I THE NIA</p>	
<p>BADMINTON ENGLAND PRESENTS</p> <p><b>YONEX ALL ENGLAND OPEN BADMINTON CHAMPIONSHIPS</b> 8 - 13 MAR I THE NIA</p>	<p>SJM CONCERTS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>JAMIROQUAI</b> 17 APR I LG ARENA</p>	<p>KENNEDY STREET AND JOO CORDS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>JAMES TAYL</b> AND HIS LEGENDARY BAND 9 JUL I LG ARENA</p>	
<p>THE KENNEL CLUB PRESENTS</p> <p><b>DF'S CRUFTS 2011 &amp; BEST IN SHOW</b> <a href="http://www.dfcrufts.org.uk">www.dfcrufts.org.uk</a> 10 - 13 MAR I HALLS &amp; LG ARENA</p>	<p>2ND CONCERT NOW ON SALE</p> 	<p>OFF THE KEYS PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS</p> <p><b>ALAN CARTT</b> SPEXBY BEAST LIVE 2011 1 &amp; 2 OCT I THE NIA</p>	
<p>METROPOLIS MUSIC PRESENTS</p> <p><b>ELBOW</b> PLUS GUESTS VILLAGERS 22 MAR I THE NIA</p>	<p>THE OFFICIAL BOSS OFFICE OF THE NEC, LG ARENA AND THE NIA.</p> <p>Find out what's on sale at The Ticket Factory by joining our Simply new WHATSON &amp; your email address to @5036.</p>	<p>birmingham</p> <p>the nia</p> <p>the ticke</p>	
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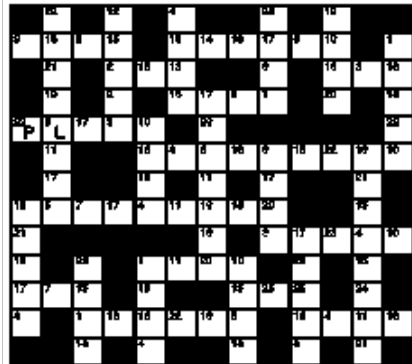


## Brain Gym

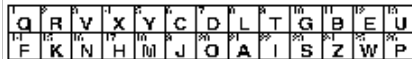
No.102

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



**win**  
a 3 day break  
to Amsterdam

*Just go!*  
HOLIDAYS  
APPROACH

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*Just go!*  
HOLIDAYS  
APPROACH

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

- As taken by a parachutist? (5,4)
- Its fallow will make one speechless (5)
- Chew the pressed things with a vile pun, perhaps? (5,2)
- Re written rule said to be remaining (8)
- Such a quitted no doctor! (4)
- Taking a sporting chance? (6)
- Agrees it's mixed lot (6)
- Exiled from a to most Trade Union (4)
- Remove everything and leave (5,3)
- Runs lightly onto the scene - and stumbles! (5,2)
- Layer on article turned to shade of red (5)
- Ready made for Boy Scouts (2,8)

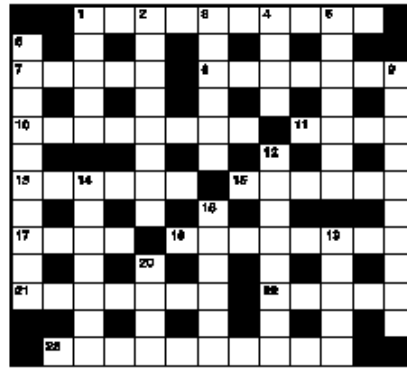
## Quick Clues:

## Across

- Meeting place (10)
- Unit of weight (5)
- Curtain (7)
- Poplar (8)
- Option (4)
- Estimate (6)
- Conceded (6)
- Inactive (4)
- Reputation (8)
- Shower (7)
- Oncomore (5)
- Colony (10)

## Down

- Not a bad point for trade exhibitors (5)
- Useful, perhaps, and supercilious (8)
- Indian antelope that's all, perhaps (8)
- Exit to westward (4)
- It will confuse men in a certain count (7)
- Come to a mean conclusion (7,3)
- Up to date description of Christmas? (7,3)
- Break a nose? (8)
- A jump there is substantial (7)
- Go wrong in bringing up students (4,2)
- Was a possessive type? (5)
- Rules of star pattern (4)



## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

CRYPTIC - Across 15 (5,4) 17 (5,4) 19 (5,4) 21 (5,4) 23 (5,4) 25 (5,4) 27 (5,4) 29 (5,4) 31 (5,4) 33 (5,4) 35 (5,4) 37 (5,4) 39 (5,4) 41 (5,4) 43 (5,4) 45 (5,4) 47 (5,4) 49 (5,4) 51 (5,4) 53 (5,4) 55 (5,4) 57 (5,4) 59 (5,4) 61 (5,4) 63 (5,4) 65 (5,4) 67 (5,4) 69 (5,4) 71 (5,4) 73 (5,4) 75 (5,4) 77 (5,4) 79 (5,4) 81 (5,4) 83 (5,4) 85 (5,4) 87 (5,4) 89 (5,4) 91 (5,4) 93 (5,4) 95 (5,4) 97 (5,4) 99 (5,4) 101 (5,4) 103 (5,4) 105 (5,4) 107 (5,4) 109 (5,4) 111 (5,4) 113 (5,4) 115 (5,4) 117 (5,4) 119 (5,4) 121 (5,4) 123 (5,4) 125 (5,4) 127 (5,4) 129 (5,4) 131 (5,4) 133 (5,4) 135 (5,4) 137 (5,4) 139 (5,4) 141 (5,4) 143 (5,4) 145 (5,4) 147 (5,4) 149 (5,4) 151 (5,4) 153 (5,4) 155 (5,4) 157 (5,4) 159 (5,4) 161 (5,4) 163 (5,4) 165 (5,4) 167 (5,4) 169 (5,4) 171 (5,4) 173 (5,4) 175 (5,4) 177 (5,4) 179 (5,4) 181 (5,4) 183 (5,4) 185 (5,4) 187 (5,4) 189 (5,4) 191 (5,4) 193 (5,4) 195 (5,4) 197 (5,4) 199 (5,4) 201 (5,4) 203 (5,4) 205 (5,4) 207 (5,4) 209 (5,4) 211 (5,4) 213 (5,4) 215 (5,4) 217 (5,4) 219 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35 ROVER 75 1.8 CLASSIC Silver, full leather, alloys, PAS.....	<b>S2999</b>
05 RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 5-door: Black, alloys, PAS, EW, AC.....	<b>S4999</b>
03 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 CLUB Met Recd, PAS, EW, AC, CD, 7 Seats.....	<b>S2999</b>
06 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 DCI DYNAMIQUE Half Leather, Alloys, AC, PAS, EW.....	<b>S2999</b>
34 ROVER 25 1.4 81 5-door: Met Grey, PAS, EW, AC, CD.....	<b>S2999</b>
33 HYUNDAI COUPE 20 SE Silver, PAS, EW, Alloys, AC.....	<b>S2999</b>

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## CHRONICLE MOTORING

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FOR AN IMPRESSIVE ninth year in a row, Mini's commitment to manufacturing frugal and fast premium small cars has been recognised as the Mini Hatch was named Supermini of the Year by BusinessCar Magazine.

Mini's unbeatable mix of performance, low running costs and CO2 emissions, coupled with high residual values are just some of the reasons why it has proven to be so successful with business car users.

Jochen Goller, director Mini UK, said "We are delighted to receive this prestigious recognition from BusinessCar."

"The corporate sales channel has increased in importance for Mini since the recent launch of the fourth member of the Mini family. The new four-door Mini Countryman has already generated

huge interest in the fleet market amongst buyers seeking the unique Mini driving experience combined with increased space and practicality."

BusinessCar editor Paul Barker said: "Normally it would be incredible to see a car hold onto its title for nine years, but with the Mini's unbeatable running costs and driver appeal, it's no surprise to see it take the Supermini of the Year Award for a ninth straight year."

### Incredible

"The excellent residual values and economy mean it's a small car that makes big sense for business."

As with all Mini models, both the Mini One D and Mini Cooper D comply with the EU5 emission standard and they achieve the same low fuel consumption of 74.3 mpg and CO2

emissions of 99 g/km.

These values are an absolute record for any series production car produced by the BMW Group.

In addition to the high efficiency of the diesel engine in the Mini One D and Cooper D, under the Minimalism umbrella both cars employ a host of fuel-saving and emission-lowering technology including Brake Energy Regeneration, Auto Start-Stop, Gearshift Indicator and Electromechanical Power Steering.

All of these technologies and the standard six-speed manual gearbox play a role in eking the most out of every drop of fuel while also minimising the tailpipe emissions.

The BusinessCar Awards are the only awards in the market decided solely by the readers of the magazine and website.

Performance, low running costs and high residual values made the car Supermini of the Year



## Own-brand tyres for Renault after prices slashed

RENAULT is introducing own-brand tyres in a bid to lower motoring costs for its customers.

After lowering its new car prices by up to £2,000, the French firm has become the first major vehicle manufacturer to introduce its own high-quality, low-price tyre brand.

The new Motrio tyre range has been developed to suit the requirements of older Renault vehicles with prices starting from £36 per tyre fully fitted.

### Specifications

The Motrio range is designed to deliver high performance – in wet or dry weather – and has been tested to Renault's strict specifications to ensure owners can be certain that the performance of the tyre is in harmony with their vehicle.

Two tread patterns feature in the range: Motrio Impulsion maximises driving comfort for the smaller models such as Twingo and Clio while Motrio Impulsion+ offers a more dynamic focus to suit the rest of the range and the firm's sportier models. Both tread patterns provide almost silent running – even at high speeds.

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FORD MONDEO EDGE 130 TDCI 56 Reg. 07, 5-dr, Machine Silver, Climate, Alloys, 55k, FSH.....		£5495
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FORD FOCUS 1.6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO 07 Reg. 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 31k, FSH.....		£6295
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VW PASSAT S TDI 105 06 Reg. Grey Metallic, air con, alloys, 27k, history.....		£7295
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BMW 330 Ci SE AUTO X Reg. Topaz Blue, Climate, Sunroof, Alloys, 71k, FSH.....

FORD FIESTA ST 07 Reg. Blue Metallic, Full Leather, Air Con, Alloys, 30k, FSH.....

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RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE 03 Reg. 04, Met Red, Air Con, Alloys, 79k, History.....

RENAULT GRAND SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE (7 SEATER), 05 Reg. Grey Metallic, Air Con, Alloys, 56k, FSH.....

RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 55 Reg. Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 36k, SH.....

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.9 CDTI LIFE 56 Reg. Grey Metallic, Air Con, 39k, SH.....

HONDA FR-V V-TEC SE 1.7 55 Reg. Metallic Grey, 6 Seater, Climate, 48k, FSH.....

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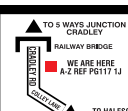
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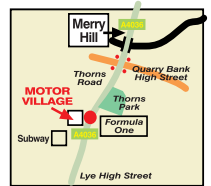


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**APR 14.1%**



# Motor Market Celebrates 1000th Sale

**C**radley Heath based car dealership Motor Market Limited reached the milestone of selling its 1000th car this month since moving to its Newtown Lane site 3 years ago.

The landmark sale was a 55 Reg Peugeot 307 1.4S to Miss Margaret Cooper of Brierley Hill and was celebrated by the Motor Market team presenting the proud new owner with flowers, champagne and a meal for 2 at a local restaurant.



Steve Hampton, Motor Market Sales Executive  
Margaret Cooper, 1000th Customer  
Debbie Parsons, Close Motor Finance

Miss Cooper said 'It doesn't surprise me the success the business is having. I originally purchased a Peugeot 206 from them 3 years ago; it's been great and never let me down. I was really pleased with the value for money and customer service I received. I had exactly the same experience this time and the extra items for being their 1000th sale were a nice added bonus.'

Motor Market specialises in providing quality used vehicles between the £2995 and £6995 price ranges. Partnerships with major finance companies such as Close Motor Finance, Santander and Barclays also ensure they can provide competitive finance wherever it's required. All vehicles are provided with a 72 point pre delivery inspection, 12 months MOT and RAC mechanical warranties.

Owned by local brothers Dean and Adam Bridge, Motor Market is rapidly developing a reputation for first class customer care and after sales support. Adam commented, 'From the outset we have always believed it vital we provide exceptional customer service, we see it as the key factor to help distinguish us from our competition. We are really pleased to now see that more than 70% of our business comes from recommendation, referrals or repeat customers, which is hopefully evidence the approach is working.'

Adam went on to say, 'Don't get me wrong despite the most thorough pre delivery inspections, we sometimes still have problems, just like everyone else,

its inevitable and unfortunately a fact of life with used vehicles, but what I can say with absolute confidence is, we never walk away from a problem and we will always put it right.'

Motor Market has qualified in house mechanics and its own workshops equipped with the latest diagnostic equipment for repairs, service and MOT work; along with branded courtesy cars to keep customers on the road should they be required.

Alongside their commitment to customer service the other key policy that Motor Market always aims to deliver is 'value for money'. The business works hard to keep its prices very competitive and provide the keenest deals available.



Adam & Dean Bridge, Motor Market Directors

Dean commented, 'We were born and bred here in the Black Country, so we understand how people quite rightly demand and deserve value for their money. You will never see sharp suited salesmen, fancy showrooms, leather suites or plasma TV's within our dealership as we recognise these things aren't important to customers when compared to permanently low prices and receiving the best value possible.'

With such a very clear focus on delivering customer satisfaction it's easy to see how Motor Market is developing such an enviable reputation within the Black Country area. Its success has led to the recent acquisition of the ex Crown Works site adjacent to its existing premises, where the additional space will see its stock holding capacity increase to 120+ cars during the early part of 2011.

So with the powerful combination of increased choice, great value and excellent customer service Motor Market looks very well positioned to serve the local used car market for many years to come.

## Motor Market

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5-door, 30k ..... £2995...£17</p> <p>04 Reg MINI COOPER 1.6 CHILLI PACK Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Half leather sport seats, glass roof, FSH ..... £5995...£36</p> <p>02 Reg MG ZR 1.4 105 Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, Spoiler ..... £1995...£/A</p> <p>03 Reg PEUGEOT 206 2.0 SE CABRIOLET Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 42k ..... £3495...£21</p> <p>02 Reg PEUGEOT 206 1.1 LOOK Silver, A/C, CD, low insurance, px to clear ..... £1995...£/A</p> <p>57 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 HDi Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5 door, £30 Year Road Tax ..... £5995...£36</p> <p>07 Reg PEUGEOT 207 1.4 URBAN Black, A/C, CD, 5-door ..... £5495...£31</p> <p>54 Reg PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD ..... £3495...£28</p> <p>06 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.6 90 S HDi STYLE Red, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD ..... £4495...£28</p> <p>53 Reg PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDi ESTATE Blue, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH ..... £3495...£21</p> <p>05 Reg PEUGEOT 307 1.4 X-LINE Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD ..... £3995...£24</p> <p>57 Reg PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDi S Black, 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Seater, FSH, 33k ..... £4795...£29</p> <p>04 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD ..... £3495...£21</p> <p>53 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.6 EXPRESSION MPV, 2004, Gold, A/C, CD, 39k ..... £3495...£21</p> <p>54 Reg RENAULT SCENIC 1.5 DCI DYNAMIQUE MPV Silver, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, 54k ..... £3995...£24</p> <p>05 Reg SKODA SUPERB 1.9 TDI ELEGANCE Gold, Diesel, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats, FSH ..... £5995...£36</p> <p>03 Reg TOYOTA CELICA 1.8 VVTi Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, leather sport seats ..... £4495...£28</p> <p>53 Reg TOYOTA RAV4 2.0 GX Gold, A/C, Alloys, CD, 5-door, FSH ..... £5495...£33</p> <p>57 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 CLUB Blue, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH, 39k ..... £5295...£32</p> <p>05 Reg VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2 DESIGN Red, Low Insurance, FSH ..... £3495...£21</p> <p>57 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi Life Beige, Diesel, A/C, CD, Low Insurance ..... £5795...£35</p> <p>56 Reg VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6i CLUB Silver, A/C, Alloys, CD, FSH ..... £4695...£29</p> <p>07 Reg 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Finance Example - Cash Price £3995. Less Cash or Part Exchange Deposit £500  
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# Iconic Porsche is back in black



The cabrio has an electric folding roof

**IT'S BACK** in black: The iconic Porsche 911 is to be available in just 1,911 examples worldwide.

It is painted in plain black as standard, with Basalt Black metallic available as an option.

The electric-folding hood of the Cabriolet model is trimmed in black cloth. Exterior highlights are provided by the 19-inch 911 Turbo II forged alloy wheels, the glossy metallic appearance of which perfectly complements the discreet elegance of these 911 models.

In addition, the wheel rims provide an unobstructed view of the brake discs which are naturally paired with black-finished, four-piston aluminium monobloc fixed callipers.

## Lettering

Black lettering on the stainless steel door entry guards identifies each 'Black Edition', and provides a first hint of the high-quality interior design with its focus on pure sports car values.

Inside, the colour theme of the exterior continues with a black leather interior, and facing the driver is a thick-rimmed SportDesign steering wheel.

The instrument cluster naturally remains in black. On the glove compartment lid, a badge testifies to the limited production run of the 911 Black Edition.

By way of contrast, the decorative fascia strip, gear lever and air vents are finished in aluminium-look paint.

Together with the characteristic exhaust note of the flat-six 3.6-litre engine, a further acoustic highlight of the 911 Black Edition is the BOSE Surround Sound-System that is fitted as standard.

This was specially co-ordinated with the interior of the 911 Carrera and comprises 13 loudspeakers (12 in the Cabriolet) including an active subwoofer and central speaker as well as a seven channel digital amplifier.

Also standard on the Black Edition models is satellite navigation, and a universal audio interface in the central console storage compartment that enables an MP3 player to be connected to the audio.

Every 911 Black Edition also features rear ParkAssist, cruise control, automatic dimming anti-dazzle interior and

exterior mirrors, and rain-sensing windscreen wipers.

The technology of the 911 Black Edition conforms to the Carrera standard. Under the rear lid is to be found the typical Carrera flat-six cylinder engine, producing 345hp at 6,500 rpm from 3,614cc.

Coupled with the six-speed gearbox, this output delivers a top speed of 180 mph in both body versions. At its maximum acceleration, the Coupé reaches 62 mph in 4.9 seconds, the Cabriolet in 5.1 seconds. Combined with such impressive performance figures are remarkably moderate running costs: the 911 Black Series Coupé, for example, returns 27.4mpg on the combined cycle.

The 911 Black Edition enjoys the same technical special equipment options that are offered for all Carrera models.

First and foremost is the Porsche-Doppelkupplungsgetriebe (PDK) double-clutch gearbox. A 911 Carrera with PDK turns in record performances thanks to the seven ratios and quick gear changes achieved with no interruption to the power flow. Fuel consumption is 29.4 mpg and 28.5 mpg for the closed and open-top 911 respectively.

## Gearshift

With PDK, the Coupé accomplishes the sprint in only 4.7 seconds, the Cabriolet in 4.9 seconds. Responsiveness can also be further enhanced by the optional Sport Chrono Plus package. It features the additional 'Launch Control' function with fast gearshifts, shaving a further 0.2 seconds off the acceleration times of vehicles equipped with PDK.

The sportiness and comfort of the 911 Black Edition can be enhanced further if so desired.

For example, the Porsche Active Suspension Management (PASM) and as an additional option for the Coupé, the PASM with sports chassis lowered by 20 mm and mechanical rear limited slip differential.

To further optimise braking performance, Porsche Ceramic Composite Brakes (PCCB) are also available at extra cost.

The 911 Black Edition goes on sale in April, priced from £67,270 for the Coupé and £74,958 for the Cabriolet – the same price as the standard 911 Carreras.



The black colour theme continues inside



Chrome and silver offset the black cabin

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 with. Tel: 005 498 6982 Sss: No  
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MALE 90% unknown, country life and  
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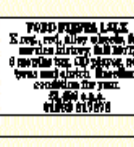
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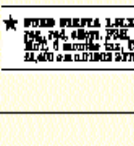
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# sport

## Golden girls in medals triumph

JUDO STARS Sarah Biles and Charis Hancock proved unstoppable at the Midlands Open Championships, both taking gold medals.

Three more Samurai players added bronzes to give the club a good haul at the tough two-day British selection event at Walsall.

Biles was up against most of the same players from the British Junior Trials the previous weekend, where she had taken bronze. Here she was on better form, producing a superb throw for maximum points in her first bout and then dominating the opponent who had finished fifth in the trials in her second.

Although she conceded an early penalty in the semi-final, a neat throw put her in front and she saw the contest out comfortably.

### Tentative

In the final she came up with a maximum point throw against the other Trials bronze medalist to take the gold.

Hancock, a touch tentative at the Trials, was anything but at Walsall and won each of her three bouts by maximum points in short order. She attacked well to both sides, moved fluidly and showed improved transition into groundwork. She also picked up points towards a black belt.

Hamish Beaumont started well in the boys lightweight, spectacular throws taking him to the semi-finals despite moving up a weight category. A foot sweep downed him for maximum points but he came back to win the bronze.

Twins Sally and Rachel Moon also reached the semis where both lost but took the two bronzes in their category.

Bryony Griffiths finished fifth as did Frankie Marston while Brendan Crumey pulled a back muscle and had to withdraw.

MENSAH KINCH and Mark Swann came back to haunt their former club with two goals apiece as AFC Wulfrunians hammered Dudley Town.

The last time Kinch and Swann found themselves on the same scoresheet was a year ago when Dudley won 3-1 victory at champions-elect Ellesmere Rangers.

AFC Wulfrunians 6  
Dudley Town 1

However, their latest double act led to a less pleasant outcome for the Robins.

Neil Perks' rebuilding job continued with the inclusion of no fewer than five debutants: Goalkeeper Matt Rodgers, defenders

Joe O'Neil and Chris Whitaker, midfielder Greg Thornton and Croatian-born forward Dreniz Bala who linked up with the recently returned Ricki Dudley.

The first half turned out to be an entertaining contest between two evenly matched sides.

Bala saw his shot hooked off the line by Graham Ashton and Matt

Martin's looping header agonisingly landed on the roof of the net.

It was Kinch who grabbed the first of the afternoon for Wulfrunians when a fine pass from midfield freed him on the right and he fired past Rodgers.

Just before the break Dudley were dealt a cruel blow when a defensive mix-up between Denis

Robinson, Thornton and Rodgers allowed Kinch to put a foot in and make it 2-0.

Swann netted against his former club just two minutes after the restart.

But from there on Town rallied and cut the deficit on 51 minutes when Ricky Martin lashed home. However the final half-hour of

the game turned into a nightmare for the visitors, with substitute Ade Bandle first ending the contest to make it 4-1.

Worse was to follow with 11 minutes remaining when Bandle grabbed his brace after some trickery from livewire substitute Nathaniel Lawson. Swann headed in the sixth.

## Heathens preparing for a tilt at the Shield

DUDLEY Heathens will be looking for early silverware when the 2011 speedway season gets under way.

The National League Shield has been introduced to the sport's third tier – and Dudley, last season's table-toppers, will do battle with champions Buxton for the trophy.

The Heathens are one of nine teams in this year's National League, joining existing sides Buxton, the Isle of Wight, King's Lynn, Newport and Scunthorpe.

Stoke are also in, having dropped down from the Premier. Their clashes with the Heathens will have a particularly nostalgic tinge for followers of the red, green and white. Stoke's Loomer Road played host to the old Cradley side in 1996, its season of exile when the Dudley Wood stadium was shut.

Also in are new entrants Belle Vue, who will be running a Colts side in the NL alongside their Elite League septet.

Another old name from the sport's glory

days, Hackney, is revived with the Hawks sharing their fixtures between Lakeside and Rye House.

A potential promotion at Middlesbrough applied to run but was refused permission. The National League pairs will run at Newport, the Fours at Stoke and the individual riders' championship returns to Rye House where Dudley's Lee Smart won a famous victory last season. Team building has been set at a 40-point limit.

# SAD YELTZ SLIDE CLOSER TO DROP

HALESOWEN dropped to within a single point of the foot of the table after being outclassed by relegation rivals Weymouth at the Bob Lucas Stadium.

Luke Adams, a 19-year-old Walsall-born defender, made his Halesowen debut after joining from Coventry City but could not stop the rampant hosts from scoring three unanswered goals.

In the first home game for new Weymouth manager Martyn Rogers the hosts boasted five new signings and went for the jugular from the outset.

Warren Byerley headed against the crossbar from Jamie Beasley's fourth-minute corner before Ben Gerring was thwarted by a fine stop from Halesowen goalkeeper Simon Flower.

The hosts forced no

Weymouth 3 Halesowen Town 0

fewer than eight corners and a sequence of crosses in the first half-hour, while the Yeltz failed to win any flag-kicks in a bitterly disappointing display.

Left-winger Beasley caused most of the problems as the hosts dominated the battle of the bottom two.

The Terras eventually

went ahead in the 39th minute when Beasley's fine cross found debutant Charlie Clough, on loan from Bristol Rovers, to head home at the far post. Weymouth immediately piled on the pressure at the start of the second half and Flower made another excellent save to deny Scott Rogers.

However, a second goal duly arrived when Byerley collected a pass and held off Alex Roope to swivel and curl home from 18 yards.

The Yeltz became increasingly frustrated and Michael McGrath was lucky to receive just a yellow card for a foul on Rogers, which led to a mass mele.

### Battling

Byerley then put the result beyond doubt from the penalty spot, after Flower was harshly judged to have pulled down Matt Groves.

Halesowen never threatened a real effort on target but kept battling away in the latter stages with Rory Curtis heading a late free-kick over the bar.

After conceding 27 goals in the last nine league games a vast improvement in fortunes will be required for the Yeltz to escape the drop.

The rearranged league game at Chesham on Tuesday night (Feb 1) was abandoned after just 10 minutes due to fog.

The Yeltz welcome Evesham United to The Grove this Saturday.

## Change of scene, but goals fly in



HASBURY Rangers under-12s are setting out for new victories against fresh opposition this season.

They won division two of the Stourbridge under-11 league last season and have switched to the Stourport league for a change of teams and venues. The team has won eight of its 11 games so far and is the top scoring side with 98 goals.

The Stourport league has now separated with the top five teams playing out the premier league for the rest of the season, starting on Sunday. The club has also organised a tour to Selsey, near Portsmouth at Whitsun.

Team, back from left, Harry Field, Ben Gainham, Zac Smith, Ross Pritchard, Redford Palmer, George Taylor, Rhys Webb and Jimmy Williams. Front, Connor Hoban, Josh Williams, Jordan Harris, Sean Hewitt, Adam Smith, Jake Humphreys and Luke Brett.

## Saxons take spoils with a late try rush

THREE TRIES in the final quarter of this enthralling Stourton Park clash saw the Saxons secure their first win of 2011, and wrap up a bonus point.

Stourbridge scored after just four minutes when James Rodley dived on the ball after a catch and drive move from the pack.

But it galvanised the visitors who controlled the next 30 minutes, writes David Lawrence. They edged ahead thanks to penalties from Paul Humphries and Sam Windsor.

Stourbridge had struggled to get their hands on the ball but, as the half drew to a close, Ali Bressington slotted over a hat-trick of penalties to put them back in the driving seat.

Visiting hooker Jack Knight was sin-binned just before the break and he was joined by Saxons' scrum-half Louis Silver and Blackheath winger

Stourbridge Saxons 36  
Blackheath 16

James Stephenson at the start of the second period. Windsor edged the visitors to within five points with a second penalty before Stourbridge started to turn the screw.

Bressington started the ball rolling with a penalty kick from in front of the posts and from then on there was no stopping the home side.

Jamie Hearn scorched in for a second Stourbridge try on 68 minutes and five minutes later Tom Jarvis raced in.

Not even a yellow card for Rodley could knock the Saxons off their stride and prop Will Davis bagged a bonus try, Bressington adding the extras.

Replacement Matt Vaughan broke clear for a late consolation score for the visitors, converted by Windsor.

## Miller's double inspires Hawks

Boys League  
Halas Hawks East 4  
Brierley Hill Bullets 0  
HALAS Hawks under-12s gave a fine performance right from the off.

Oliver Miller put them ahead and in the second half there were goals for Tom Baker, Miller and Declan Weaver.

Perton 3 Halas Hawks 1  
The under-12s West fell to their first defeat of 2011 in a tight game against plucky Perton.

Halas started well and went in front through Ellis Meredith.

Perton drew level before the break and although Halas created chances they were twice punished on the break.

Gornal Colts East 4  
Halas Hawks 1

The under-13s had the best of the play against a very strong Gornal team, before conceding a goal.

Halas fought back to equalise with a goal from Jack Guest before half-time and continued to play some good football in the second period.

But Gornal's strength in depth began to show as they ran out 4-1 winners.

Halas Hawks East 1  
Withymoor 0

A Josh March lob after a flowing Halas move secured a 1-0 victory for the under-14s East against Withymoor Colts.

The victory kept Hawks second in the league.

Halas Hawks 3  
Kewford 3

Halas fell three goals behind after only 10 minutes. But they fought back to secure a 3-3 with goals from Dan Scarrett, Danny Hodges and debutant, Joe Prosser.

Gornal Panthers 1  
Halas Hawks 3

The under-16s beat Gornal Panthers 3-1 with goals from Guy Millward, Scott Pope and Ben Hughes.

Wombourne 0 Halas Hawks 9

All nine goals for the under-17s came in the second half. Scorers were Mark Perry (3), Ryan Howard (2), Anthony Keeling, Brad Hickman, Adam Reece and keeper Charlie Price who scored from the penalty spot.

The Halesowen Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Wolverhampton on Thursday, February 3, 2011.

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